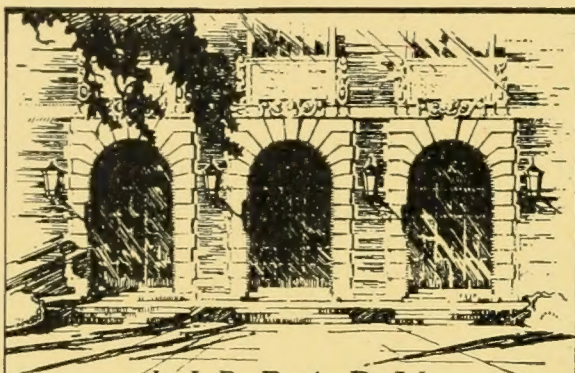


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209

# HISTORY

OF

# MERCER COUNTY

TOGETHER WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL MATTER, STATISTICS, ETC.

GATHERED FROM MATTER FURNISHED BY THE MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INTERVIEWS WITH OLD SETTLERS, COUNTY, TOWNSHIP  
AND OTHER RECORDS, AND EXTRACTS FROM FILES OF  
PAPERS, PAMPHLETS, AND SUCH OTHER SOURCES  
AS HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE.

CONTAINING ALSO

A SHORT HISTORY OF HENDERSON COUNTY.

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H. H. HILL AND COMPANY, PUBLISHERS.  
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## PREFACE.

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IN presenting the history of Mercer County to the public the editors and publishers have had in view the preservation of certain valuable historical facts and information which without concentrated effort would not have been obtained, but, with the passing away of the old pioneers, the failure of memory, and the loss of public records and private diaries, would soon have been lost. This locality being comparatively new, we flatter ourselves that, with the zeal and industry displayed by our general and local historians, we have succeeded in rescuing from the fading years almost every scrap of history worthy of preservation. Doubtless the work is, in some respects, imperfect; we do not present it as a model literary effort, but in that which goes to make up a valuable book of reference for the present reader and future historian, we assure our patrons that neither money nor time has been spared in the accomplishment of the work. Perhaps some errors will be found. With treacherous memories, personal, political and sectarian prejudices and preferences to contend against, it would be almost a miracle if no mistakes were made. We hope that even these defects, which may be found to exist, may be made available in so far as they may provoke discussion and call attention to corrections and additions necessary to perfect history.

In this work we have been greatly aided by the officers and members of the Mercer County Historical Society, and to Messrs. Tyler McWhorter, I. N. Bassett, C. S. Richey, Graham Lee, and John Geiger, we are indebted not only for valuable advice, but for articles on various topics that cannot but prove interesting and acceptable to our patrons. Messrs. L. B. Doughty, C. E. Shove, J. S. Fugate, J. V. Frazier, R. H. Spicer, Hopkins Boone, William Marsh, E. S. Ricker,



Dr. A. W. Hyde, E. Mathews, Miss Amanda Frazier, and many others, have placed Mercer County under lasting obligations for valuable matter rescued from the fading years.

The biographical department contains the names and private sketches of nearly every person of importance in the county. A few persons, whose sketches we would be pleased to have presented, for various reasons refused or delayed furnishing us with the desired information, and in this matter only we feel that our work is incomplete. However, in most of such cases we have obtained, in regard to the most important persons, some items, and have woven them into the county or township sketches, so that, as we believe, we cannot be accused of negligence, partiality or prejudice.

# HISTORY OF MERCER AND HENDERSON COUNTIES.

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## DISCOVERIES AND EXPLORATIONS.

THAT our readers may have a full understanding of the history of Mercer and Henderson counties, it will be necessary to take them back, not merely to the time of their earliest settlement by the whites, but a time far anterior to that. This part of the State of Illinois has at different periods been in the possession and under the dominion of various persons and powers, whose acts play an important part in the history of this section. Of course we fully realize that, to the present population, the present history will prove much more interesting than that which precedes, but as the foundation of the house is much less appreciated by the occupants and is yet one of its very important parts, so that part of history which forms the basis for what follows must necessarily be of the utmost value as a foundation or root on which to develop the complete work.

Though but a little more than half a century has passed since the soil of this part of the Mississippi valley was occupied and cultivated by white men, three times that length of time had elapsed since its first discovery. During that 150 years it was occupied by various tribes of Indians, and was under the dominion of several powerful governments, who contended for its possession with varying success, with but little apparent design of occupation other than for the purpose of trading with the original owners, in furs and such other natural products as they could easily gather, and their simple and indolent habits required. Indeed the fur trade seems to have been not only the chief object, but eventually to have led to the peopling of the country with those who added to the industry of fur catching that of agriculture.

The first white men to visit Illinois with a view of making extended explorations were Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette, their travels in this state beginning in 1673.

Joliet was born at Quebec in 1645, and educated for a priest of the



Roman Catholic Church, but at the time of which we write had abandoned his profession, and at the age of twenty-eight was engaged in the fur trade.

Father Marquette was born in France in 1637. He was also a priest of the same church and of the order of Jesuits. It was with a view to promulgate the doctrines of his church that he left comparative comfort in his native country, crossed the Atlantic and braved the western wilderness, hundreds of miles beyond the boundaries of civilization, to convert the Indians to the faith he professed, in which, by his kindness, he made many enduring friendships.

These two men, with their several objects in view, set out from the Jesuit Mission on the Strait of Mackinaw with five other French companions on their journey, May 17, 1763, their objective point being the Mississippi river, of which they had but a vague idea. Coasting along the northern shore of Lake Michigan, they reached Green Bay, on the west side of the lake, and the mouth of Fox river, in Wisconsin. Up this river they pushed their canoes as far as the depth of the water would permit. Having reached the head waters of the Fox, it was but a few miles to the waters of the Wisconsin, which flows thence into the Mississippi. Across this stretch of prairie they carried their small boats and scanty outfits, and again launched them. On the 17th of June, just one month after their embarkation at the Mackinaw, they found themselves on the broad bosom of the Father of Waters (meaning of the Indian words composing the name Mississippi). Down the river they glided rapidly and easily, touching frequently at different points on either shore, and doubtless the soil of these counties was pressed, for the first time by white men, by the feet of Joliet and Marquette and their companions. On landing at one place their journal shows that they went ashore and remained several days with the natives. This could not have been far from this part of the river's course—probably near Rock Island on the west side. They were treated kindly by the Indians, and given all the supplies at their disposal for the further prosecution of their explorations. They continued their course until they came near the mouth of the Arkansas river, where, finding Indians who showed some signs of hostility, they deemed it expedient to return. They now entered the mouth of the Illinois river, up which they toiled to Lake Michigan, whose western shore they followed to Green Bay, where they arrived the latter part of September. In this journey they had spent about four months and traveled nearly 3,000 miles. Joliet had accomplished his purpose of discovering a route to the great water thoroughfares and opening up friendly relations with the inhabitants along their shores, and Father

Marquette had made known the gospel to those with whom his brief visits brought him in contact.

The formal occupation of the Mississippi and Illinois valleys was accomplished in 1680, in the name of the French, by Robert La Salle, who came, with about thirty followers, for the purpose of building forts on the Illinois river at different points, and establishing trading points with the natives in the name and for the benefit of the French government, which he represented. Even at this early date the English and French were disputing the rights of each other to the trade of these valleys, and this expedition was watched with suspicious eyes by the former. Not only so, but the enterprise which bid fair to be popular and profitable was jealously viewed by the order of Jesuits, who had been excluded from it, and their rivals of the Recollet order selected as spiritual counsel and companions. Of the last was father Hennepin, after whom, 150 years later, was named a town on the Illinois river. Owing to these, and unfaithful members of the expedition, treacherous guides and hostile Indians, with many unforeseen mishaps, the story of La Salle's travels sounds more like fiction than truth. Often, almost alone, he traveled for many days through the wilderness in the dead of winter and almost without a mouthful of food. His forts and trading posts were built and destroyed and rebuilt by turns, until at last, having formally taken possession of the country and traversed the Illinois river from Lake Michigan, the Kankakee to its junction therewith, and the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico, he was basely assassinated by his own followers in January, 1687. In taking possession of the country he gave it the name of his reigning monarch and called it Louisiana, so that what is now Mercer and Henderson counties and Illinois was once called by that name.

Very much that would be interesting to the general reader concerning La Salle's voyages must necessarily be omitted, as our work has not so much to do with the State of Illinois and the great water-courses explored by him as with the locality under immediate consideration. Father Hennepin, whose name has already been mentioned, made by La Salle's order an excursion from the mouth of the Illinois up the Mississippi as far as the Falls of St. Anthony, and may have touched at points bordering on this section. Henry Tonti, one of La Salle's companions, figures largely in the early explorations of this part of the country. He spent over twenty years in establishing posts and building fortifications for their protection. Under his command was all of the territory from the Allegheny to the Rocky Mountains, and from the Gulf of Mexico as far north as imagination could carry.

Although the French had, as noted, taken possession of this large



tract of country, it was not an undisputed occupation. The English, having settled the Atlantic coast, were gradually pushing their settlements toward the west, and finding the fur trade a profitable source of revenue to individual enterprise and also to the government, disputed with the French who inhabited the shores of the great lakes, the right to the monopoly. To carry out their plans it became necessary for either to enlist the Indians in their schemes, as from them they were to derive their profit. Accordingly, the natives of the Alleghenies and the Ohio valley were naturally arrayed against each other and many and bloody wars were the consequence. In the mother countries the French and English were engaged from time to time in combat, which naturally extended to the colonies of America, and thus were the struggles for the fur trade, which might otherwise have been confined to active competition, transformed into long-continued and bloody conflict. These wars in history are termed the French and Indian wars, and lasted for a period of more than fifty years. At last, in 1763, at a treaty between these nations, all that portion of the Mississippi valley east of the river was ceded to England, and thus for a time, until the war of the revolution, this section of country remained a province of Great Britain.

The great struggle of the colonists, commencing in 1775 and ending with their independence in 1783, though mostly confined to the shores of the Atlantic were not wholly so, for while a fierce conflict was going on at the east, the valleys of the Mississippi, Wabash and Ohio were receiving some attention from both the English and Americans. At the beginning of that war the whole northwest was in the possession of the British.

The brilliant achievements which wrested these beautiful valleys from English rule were brought about by Gen. George Rogers Clarke, of Virginia. He well understood the relations existing between the Indians and the mother country, and though the natives had been stirred up to jealousy by the rapid encroachments of white settlers upon their domain, he wisely judged that if the British posts and forts could be wrested from them, the subjugation of the Indians would be a comparatively easy matter. Accordingly he applied to the authorities of Virginia for men and means for the accomplishing of the enterprise, and though they could at that time ill be spared, they were granted, and Clarke set out upon the undertaking. Though many hardships consequent upon hunger and fatigue had to be endured, the whole line of forts, including Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes, was taken with scarcely a show of resistance, the inhabitants of the posts apparently being desirous of coming under the new government. In February, 1777,

Vincennes was taken, and thus hostilities for this region, not only between the Americans and English, but for the time being between the Americans and Indians were terminated, and the possession of the northwest made secure. But for these brilliant strokes of Gen. Clarke it is hard to conceive what would have been the history of this part of the country. Possibly a union of all the tribes from Maine to Florida might have been effected, which in conjunction with foreign foes, though then somewhat discouraged, would have retained possession of the whole Mississippi valley even to this time.

The close of the war of independence left this portion of the country under the government of the United States, and as a part of Virginia. In 1778, the legislature of Virginia formed, from the territory under that dominion, all of the country now embraced in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan, the county of Illinois, so that what is now embraced in Mercer and Henderson counties was once a part of Virginia. Illinois continued a part of Virginia until March 1, 1784, when that state ceded it with all other territory north of the Ohio river to the United States.

In 1787, the whole country under consideration was, by an ordinance passed by the government, set apart and named the Northwestern Territory. After a while the territory was divided into smaller territories, and what is now the state of Illinois fell into that portion called Indiana Territory as one of its counties, with its old name of 1778—Illinois county.

In 1809, the country now known as Illinois and Wisconsin was erected into a separate territory with the name of Illinois Territory. The population of this vast region was then only about half that of Mercer and somewhat less than Henderson county, being all told 9,000. Many of the oldest citizens of this region, but then residents of other states, doubtless remember, if not the event itself, many incidents of as early a date. Now there are 102 counties in the State of Illinois, few of which contain a smaller population than did both these great states only seventy-five years ago, one of which has residing within its limits a population sixty times as great. At the time of which we write, the territory was divided into two counties—St. Clair and Randolph.

Though the valley of the Mississippi was a part of the United States, and though it belonged to the government, it was occupied almost exclusively by the Indians, and they claimed it as their rightful possession in which to live and derive support, not from the cultivation of its soil, but from its natural products. In 1804 William Henry Harrison, authorized by the general government, made a treaty with



the chiefs and head men of the Sac and Fox nations who were then the occupants of all this region, whereby all the country on both sides of the Mississippi and including all the country west of the Illinois, was given up to the government for purposes of settlement by the whites. Out of this treaty, a number of years later, grew what is known as the Black Hawk war.



GENERAL HARRISON.

In 1816 all that portion of the state between the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, and extending from the mouth of the latter about 170 miles north, and including the counties of which we now write, was surveyed by the government and subsequently set apart as bounties to soldiers of the regular army who had served in the war with Great Britain, and which had just preceded the date just given. The whole tract contained 207 entire townships and several fractions. These land grants or bounties became a kind of currency in this part of the country, and were used not only by actual settlers in making homes for themselves, but large numbers were bought by speculators for a trifling part of their face value. From misunderstandings as to their real value and of their validity, many claims were put in jeopardy, and much litigation in regard to the land titles in the parts of the counties embraced by the military tract have been the result. Whoever has held successfully a disputed title in the Bounty lands, from bitter experience has learned the history of these land schemes and speculations better than any but the attorneys engaged in unravelling them can know or care to learn.

In 1818 the territory now embraced in Illinois became a separate organization and was admitted into the Union as a State. As yet but fifteen counties had been formed in the state and all of these in the southern part. None had been formed in the military tract, nor indeed was there much necessity for such organizations, as there was scarcely a family permanently established. However, a few years later, Pike county, embracing all of the wilderness of Warren, Mercer, Henderson and a number of other counties, was organized.

From and after the Black Hawk war, settlements were quite rapid west of the Illinois river, and new counties were accordingly as rapidly authorized. The army which went forward to suppress the uprising of the Indians under that chief in 1832 had much to do in settling the section between the mouth of the Illinois and Rock Island. It was then discovered by many of the soldiery that the garden of Illinois lay along that line of march. Many of them profited by their experience by themselves selecting homes in the section under consideration. Information sent by others to friends in the east and south brought many more, so that in 1825 the county of Warren, embracing all of the territory now included in Warren and Henderson, and Mercer with its present limits, were formed and attached to Peoria for political purposes. Subsequently, Warren county was organized and Mercer was attached to Warren for a few years. In 1835 Mercer was organized, and in 1841 Henderson with its present limits was cut off from the west side of Warren and immediately organized. This then brings us to the consideration of the several counties as separate organizations, and as such we shall refer to them as separate items of historical interest.

#### BLACK HAWK WAR.

Though this was not the battle-field of the Indian troubles, yet its proximity to the scenes of the struggle makes the Black Hawk war a peculiarly interesting topic for consideration; indeed this portion of the valley of the Mississippi was the home of the Indian. On its banks and those of the Edwards, Pope and Henderson rivers, and the smaller streams of the two counties, he built his wigwam, hunted game and fished in their waters. This country was dear to him and for it, though not in it, he made his last desperate struggle.

The rich mines of lead at and in the vicinity of Galena had for some time been worked. That section, about fifteen miles square, had been bought by the government in 1804, and its occupation by the whites had been the source of some ill-feeling on the part of the Indians, which was resented by the whites. In 1825 or thereabouts real trouble began to show itself and conflicts between the two races



were common. At this time the number of miners had increased to more than 1,500 and they were not always careful to avoid crossing the Indian claims, nor were they always particular about holding sacred the rights of Indians to their property, or of shooting their game or stealing their ponies, and it finally came about that an Indian's scalp was considered as much of a trophy as was a white man's to an Indian.

These growing animosities finally culminated in an attack by the Winnebago Indians on the 30th of July, 1827, on two keel-boats which were passing up the Mississippi river with supplies for Fort Snelling. Several of the crew were killed and others wounded. The state government being apprised of the outbreak ordered forward, to the threatened portion of the state, military to quell the hostiles. The whole country roundabout was in confusion and alarm, and settlers throughout the northern part of the state fled to distant points where had been erected fortifications for safety. At Galena 3,000 people, men women and children from the surrounding country were gathered for protection. Several hundred men at Galena were armed and equipped, and in Sangamon and Morgan counties a regiment was formed and sent forward, but before they arrived the Indians had been driven far north and some of the leaders captured.

Hardly had the excitement occasioned by this outbreak died out, however, until trouble began with the Sac and Fox tribes. The leaders and chiefs of these were Keokuk and Black Hawk, whose names have been perpetuated in different localities in this vicinity by places which bear their names. These men were not friends; had they been, the war which was soon to follow might have been a much more serious affair than it proved. Keokuk was loyal to the government and controlled much the larger portion of the people, though they were anxious for war, and in accordance with the stipulations of a preceding treaty he with a majority of the two tribes remained on the west side of the Mississippi river. Black Hawk, however, claiming that the treaty alluded to was void, crossed the river with 300 warriors in the spring of 1831 with a view of occupying his former home near where the city of Rock Island now stands. Here had these people lived for more than a hundred years and this was the principal town of the Sac nation. According to one provision of the treaty the Indians had a right to occupy the lands until wanted by the government for actual settlement, and though the Indians had been ordered to vacate them no actual settlers were very near—in all of Mercer and Henderson counties perhaps not more than five or six families, and in the whole county of Rock Island not one. However, in those times people liv-

ing within forty miles of each other were neighbors, and the two races could not well exist within twice the distance without encroaching on each other. Doubtless both parties were much to blame in bringing about this final conflict, and doubtless both were anxious that the final test should be made. It is not our province to discuss causes or details, but simply relate facts that seem to have a close connection with the territory whose history we set out to write.

On the 30th of April, 1831, a petition signed by forty persons was sent to the executive of Illinois representing that the Indians had done much damage to their property, and that their lives and homes were in constant danger. John Reynolds was then Governor of Illinois and believing from this petition and other information received, that Black Hawk was determined to retain possession of the disputed territory to the detriment of the state, resolved to expel him. He accordingly made a call for volunteers. In a very short time 700 militia were assembled at Beardstown on the Illinois river ready to take up the line of march toward the camp of Black Hawk. Before moving, however, Gen. Gaines, who was then stationed at St. Louis, passed up the river to Rock Island in command of a regiment of United States troops, with the hope of returning the Indians to the west side of the river without the necessity of calling upon the militia. The Indians were obstinate and refused to move, and according to previous arrangement the volunteers from Beardstown were advised to go forward, which they did with much enthusiasm, their numbers having in the meantime been swelled to twice the original call.

The brigade was accompanied by Governor Reynolds; and Joseph Duncan, whose name appears on the records of Mercer and Henderson as a large land-holder in the early times of this section, was appointed brigadier-general. On the 15th of June, this, the largest body of military that had ever been seen in the state, left their encampment at Rushville, just west of the Illinois river, and marched to within a few miles of the Sac village. This line of march took them directly through the central part of Mercer county, and the exact route is still known and pointed out, it being on the old Indian trail (which was nearly on the Henderson and Warren county line) and extending through Mercer county northward between Aledo and Joy. When the Indians found that the government and state were in earnest, and that they were nearly surrounded with bristling bayonets and cannon, and were about to be cut off, they took the alarm, and the night before the intended attack escaped to the west side of the river. Doubtless their retreat was known and could have been cut off, but Gen. Gaines was



anxious that the affair should end without bloodshed. The soldiery were somewhat disappointed, and in a spirit of revenge burned their town, though the wigwams and cabins were needed to protect themselves from the rain which was falling incessantly.

Thus bloodlessly terminated the campaign, but the war was not yet at an end. Black Hawk had promised to submit to the government of the country and to the counsel of the friendly chiefs, but he still had the defiant will which ere long must needs break out in the act which did not terminate so favorably to him and his braves. During the following winter he was busy inciting the Indians to hostility, and by spring had succeeded in raising a force of 500. His headquarters were at the site of old Fort Madison, just on the west side of the Mississippi. From thence they proceeded up the river on horses, the women and children in canoes, to a point just opposite the present town of Oquawka. Here they were met by White Cloud, the prophet, who, at a council held at the place named, advised them to go forward and cross the river, and that numerous other tribes would surely join them in a war against the whites. Accordingly the Indians crossed the Mississippi at Rock Island and ascended the Rock river to the country still occupied by the Winnebagos, near its source. Couriers were sent to warn them to return, but with no effect. The attitude of Black Hawk looked so alarming that the settlers of the whole of the north half of the state fled precipitately to the southern part and to the more thickly settled portions of Indiana.

Governor Reynolds at once called for volunteers to meet at Beardstown. About 2,000 men assembled upon this call, and on the 27th of April the army started on their march to Oquawka, where they were joined by two companies from Shelby county. Here the army encamped for several days awaiting supplies and provisions, which were furnished them from Rock Island and St. Louis. As soon as they could be supplied, baggage wagons were loaded and all was got in readiness for a march to Dixon, where they had been informed the enemy was encamped. When the army was ready to start a letter was brought from Gen. Atkinson, who commanded several companies of the regular army at Fort Armstrong, that Black Hawk had descended the Rock river, and requesting the governor to march immediately with troops to Fort Armstrong. The army was then put in motion and moved to the mouth of Rock river, where they were received into the service of the United States, and Gen. Atkinson assumed command.

The volunteers now took up their course along Rock river toward Dixon, where they were joined a few days later by Gen. Atkinson and



the regulars. From this point Majors Stillman and Bailey had been detailed to protect the pioneer border, and having as yet seen but little service they were anxious to go farther up the river to reconnoitre. Accordingly orders were given to proceed up the river for this purpose, and with nearly 300 men they advanced about thirty miles, where they captured a few Indians and pursued some others, who had fled, into the very ambush of Black Hawk, who with only about forty warriors put them to flight and killed several of them. The retreat was as inglorious as it was confusing; ammunition, food, horses and wagons were left in the precipitate flight, and the fugitives did not stop running until they arrived at Dixon, in squads of from two or three to a dozen.

The war was now fully inaugurated, and the next day the army started for the field of action. They found the ground strewn with their comrades in a horribly mutilated condition, with heads and limbs sundered from the bodies and hearts plucked out. The fragments were gathered together and buried in one common grave on the spot. The Indians had fled, well knowing that the fury of the whites would be fully aroused upon the discovery of the atrocious deeds.

The Government now sent Gen. Scott with 1,000 United States troops to superintend operations in the future campaigns. New levies of troops were made and sent forward by the State. On the 6th of June Black Hawk made an attack with about 150 warriors on the fort at Apple river, near Galena. There were only twenty-five men in the fort, but they defended it with desperation for fifteen hours, and the Indians were finally compelled to retire, the only damage sustained being the loss of one man, the burning of the houses of the village, and the destruction of other property.

Other conflicts followed rapidly in succession between bands of Indians and detachments of American troops, but as the engagements did not occur in the vicinity of the counties of which we write, we shall but mention them. The battle at Kellogg's Grove, and other conflicts in the northern portion of Illinois and the southern part of Wisconsin occurred during the months of June and July.

At last, about the first of August, the Indians were completely hemmed in at a point on the Mississippi called Bad Axe, where they were driven into the river, many being killed and many others being drowned in the attempt to gain the opposite shore. The loss of the Indians was not far short of 300, and near 100 more were wounded and taken prisoners. The war virtually ended with the battle of Bad Axe, and the further pursuit of the hostiles was not deemed necessary.

Many of the names of those engaged in the war, such as Anderson, Turney, Ewing, Breese, Dement, Ford, Duncan, Dodge and Lincoln,

afterward became noted in the history of the state and of the nation. Among the many who distinguished themselves, none made a more brilliant record than did Gen. James D. Henry, of Springfield, after whom has been named an adjoining county.

A few weeks subsequent to the battle of Bad Axe, Black Hawk and the Prophet were captured by some friendly Indians and turned over to the United States authorities. They were held in custody for about one year, when they were set at liberty; subsequently Black Hawk settled down in Lee county, Iowa, for a short period, and then moved to the vicinity of the Des Moines, twenty miles above its mouth. In 1838 he contracted a disease which ended his life when he had attained the age of seventy-two years. Abraham Miller, formerly a resident of Mercer county, says, in a letter to the Historical Society of Mercer county, that he frequently saw Black Hawk after his expulsion from this section, in the neighborhood of New Boston, where, Mr. Miller says, Black Hawk's daughter lies buried. Quite a number of citizens of Mercer and Henderson counties yet survive who were personally acquainted with this great chief, notably amongst whom is Colonel Patterson of Oquawka, whose intimacy with him and his history we shall notice at length on a subsequent page.

#### MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE INDIANS.

The Indians inhabiting this portion of the state at the time of the advent of the white settler, and for many years previous, were the Sac and Fox nations, and consisted of the Ottawa, Kickapoo, Chippewa, Shawnee, Mascoutin, Piankeshaw and Pottawottamie tribes. They had obtained possession of this part of the State by conquest from other tribes who had lived here before the occupation by these nations. The Sacs and Foxes were at the beginning of the present century indeed but one nation in reality, intermarrying, living, hunting and fighting together as an individual nation. As their history is so closely connected with this section, doubtless many of our younger readers, whose fathers and mothers and elderly friends have recollections reaching back to the closing scenes of the Indian's last years on the east side of the Mississippi and their final departure, will be interested to read something relating to their modes of life.

Before the arrival of the Europeans and their intercourse with them, their manners, implements of agriculture, hunting and war, were much more rude than after contact with the more enlightened whites. They were at first found in possession of the most simple utensils; the flint dart, of which many have been found along the timber lands of the streams, were the points for the arrows, which, shot from the bow, brought down the game which was their principal subsistence. The

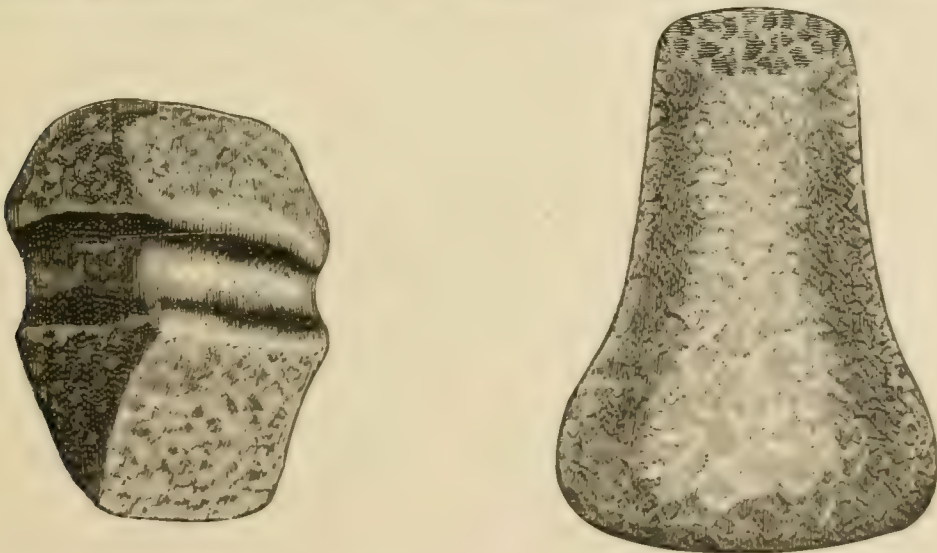


boys as soon as they were strong enough were given this instrument, and their education consisted in its use and the knowledge of the habits of the animals it was designed to destroy.

This, too, was their instrument of warfare. For the different purposes different shaped points were used. Some were fashioned with barbs at the base, so that the arrows having entered the object would not be easily withdrawn, which, possibly were used for shooting fish; some were made broad at the base, and were no doubt designed to



make a large wound, and were perhaps used for the slaying of the larger animals and in war; and yet others were evidently intended for small game, and where it was not desirable to injure the flesh more than



absolutely necessary. Of these three principal varieties cuts are here given, but there were numerous modifications of these, as can be seen by reference to the collections in the possession of a number of persons



in this section. For knives and axes they also used flint and granite stones fashioned into proper shapes.

Mr. Tyler McWhorter has in his valuable and extensive cabinet a very large number of these and other implements used by these people.

These rude implements were, after the fur trade was established, gradually superseded by knives and guns procured from the traders in exchange for furs, and many of the Indians soon became as skillful in the use of the rifle as the white men, and afterward made effectual and savage use of it against the race by whom it had been supplied. However, when our fathers and grandfathers found these people here they were still anything but cultured in their ways.

Their houses consisted of a few poles ten or fifteen feet in length, planted in the ground in circular form and approaching each other at the top, and covered with the skins of animals. In the winter the fire was kindled in the middle of the area inside and the smoke found its way out at the top, where an opening had been left. At this fire they cooked their food by roasting animal's flesh held on the ends of sharpened sticks, and by baking cakes of meal that had been made by breaking the grains with stones on flat, heated stones. A common food was made by boiling the carcass of an animal with kernels of corn and such vegetables as they could find. Abraham Miller, an early settler at the town of Millersburg, relates that he saw Black Hawk and a few of his friends regale themselves on a stew prepared from a polecat thrown into the kettle without any dressing whatever. Skins of animals taken in the chase constituted their beds, and around the smouldering embers of the camp-fire they smoked their pipes and recounted there the incidents of the chase or war, and slept the long winter nights upon these primitive couches.

The business of the Indian was to kill game and spear fish, while that of the wife was to till the soil in summer, gather and chop the wood for the fires and do the drudgery for the simple household.

Cleanliness was by no means essential to respectability, neither did the clothing nor the person of the Indian receive so many ablutions but that all these events in his life could be easily remembered.

Marriage with them was not even a matter of form, unless it be considered in the light of a bargain and sale, for such it really was, ponies, and bear and deer skins being almost always given in exchange for wives. In general they had but few children. The women were treated as slaves and were subject in consequence of exposure to many and severe attacks of sickness.

The stories found in novels of the wooing of the dusky maiden by the noble warrior or daring hunter, and of their tender attachment for

their wives and children, are in the main very much overdrawn. A few rare exceptions are known. It is said that Black Hawk was a most devoted husband, and was, throughout his long life, true to his marital relations.

The amusements of the Indians were the war dance, athletic sports, and the narration of their hunting and war experiences, but in none of these did the females take any part.

Though filthy in their habits to the extreme they were nevertheless proud, and were fond of decorating their dirty bodies with paint, feathers, and such bits of ribbons and beads as they could obtain.

After its introduction by the whites the Indians grew very fond of whisky, and drunkenness became much more common with them than with their pale brethren. Sometimes when a fresh supply of liquor was obtained, a whole band, with the exception of two or three, who were required to remain sober for the purpose of keeping the rest from murdering each other, would get on a grand big drunk, which would not end until the whisky was all gone or they got beyond the power of locomotion.

#### DESCRIPTION.

Mercer county lies on the northwestern border of the state and embraces a little more than fifteen townships, or about 550 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Rock Island county, on the east by Henry and Knox, on the south by Warren and Henderson, and on the west by the middle of the Mississippi river. The fourth principal meridian passes along the eastern border, and it embraces townships 13, 14 and 15 north, and ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, and a part of 5 and 6 west. It is intersected from the east to the west, through the northern portion, by Edwards river, which, near the western border, changes its course, and running in a southwesterly direction, empties into the Mississippi about a mile and a half below New Boston. A few miles south of the Edwards is Pope creek, which passes through the county in the same direction, and enters the Mississippi at Keithsburg. In addition to these there are in the northwest, Eliza creek, which empties into Swan lake, and Camp creek, a tributary of the Edwards. South of these is North Pope, a tributary of Pope creek, and in the southeast are North Henderson and Duck creeks. These, together with some smaller streams, furnish an abundant supply of water.

A large portion of the county is prairie, while along the borders of the streams are the so-called barrens. The soil of the prairie is a deep black or chocolate colored loam, with a yellow or dark brown clay subsoil. The soil of the barrens is similar to that of the prairie, only lighter colored and of



less depth, while along the upper part of the slope it is of a light brown or yellowish color, owing to the character of the subsoil, which comes near the surface. In some portions of the barrens there is but a thin covering of the soil, and in these places it is quite light colored. The most extensive alluvial deposit is along the Mississippi bottom. This extends along the whole western border of the county, with a varied width of from two to five miles. Of this, that portion which is situated on the northwest and extends as far south as New Boston, is much cut up by swamps, lakes and bays. Through a large portion of these bottom lands there are one or more low ridges of sand. The soil of this sandy portion is of but little value, there being but few seasons when it is wet enough to produce. In other portions the soil is a deep black loam and very productive. Narrow alluvial belts are also found along nearly all the water-courses, the soil of which is very dark colored, but more or less intermingled with sand and pebbles. Coal of a good quality is found in various parts; the veins are from three to five feet thick. The mines furnish a large amount of good coal. The seam furnishing the largest portion of the coal of this county extends over most of the northeastern half of the county, but is most extensively mined in the townships of Greene, Rivoli, Richland Grove and Preemption. In the township sketches, devoted to these townships, will be found more extended notices of these mines.

The soil of this county is well adapted to agricultural purposes, and is in nearly every part of the county productive of large crops of corn, oats and hay. Wheat is not much raised. Formerly, spring wheat was grown to a considerable extent, but of late years its cultivation has greatly decreased. Recently, considerable attention has been given to producing winter wheat. The land along or near the water-courses, though of a lighter character, is valuable for the production of fruit. Nearly all the lands along the streams were formerly heavily timbered, but here the first settlers built their cabins, and in consequence of habits acquired in their eastern and southern homes, much of the original forest has disappeared. In the early times coal was not used for fuel; indeed it was scarcely known to exist, and its value as a fuel was overlooked for a number of years. Fencing and house-building also required much timber, and so the once heavily timbered portions of the county now resemble much more than formerly the open prairies which lie beside them. The kinds of timber most abundant are white, burr, black, red and laurel oak, red and white elm, blue and white ash, hickory, maple, wild cherry, and occasionally a black walnut. In the bottoms are also locust, sycamore, cottonwood, box alder, wild plum



WILLIAM DRURY.





and crab-apple, and occasionally pecans and buckeyes. Grape vines and other climbers are abundant. In later years the hand of man has added many varieties of fruit and ornamental trees, which thrive apparently as though in their native soil. The osage orange grows well here, and many of the most tasty farms are now fenced with this shrub. The climate is rather cold for it, however, and its fruit scarcely ever comes to perfection.

In the larger rivers, especially near their mouths, are abundant supplies of fish, and formerly in the timber along their banks were found many wild animals, such as deer, squirrels, raccoons, turkeys and chickens. The game has almost all vanished from before the face of the white man. The description of the county will be given more in detail in the several township sketches.

#### A SCRAP OF ANCIENT HISTORY.

The following, written nearly half a century ago, by a visitor to this section, will doubtless prove interesting to many readers. It is from Augustus Mitchell's description of Illinois in 1837.

"Mercer county is situated in the northern part of the Military Bounty tract. It lies north of Warren, south of Rock Island, west of Henry, and east of Louisa and Musquitine counties, \*Wisconsin territory, from which it is separated by the Mississippi river. . . . The town of Mercer is located in the exact geographical center and with the express view of becoming the county seat of Mercer county. It is situated midway between Pope and Edwards rivers, which run through the county parallel to each other, and at this point are not more than five miles apart. The site is healthy and elevated, commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding country, which is as rich and as well adapted to the culture of wheat, and indeed of all kinds of grain, as any in the state. The county is settling rapidly with a moral, industrious and enterprising population. The water-power afforded by Pope and Edwards rivers is equal to that of any county in the state: a circumstance of much importance, not only for furnishing lumber for building, but for the erection of grain and flouring mills. There is one saw mill now in operation within two and one-half miles of Mercer, and several others will be built the approaching season, also within a few miles of the town. The situation of Mercer admits of the convenient access to the timber, stone and stone coal of both Pope and Edwards rivers and their branches. Mercer is situated about fourteen miles from New Boston, on the Mississippi, at which there is an excellent landing. It is also on the direct route from the

\* Now Iowa.



latter place to Hennepin, and from Oquawka to Rock Island. New Boston, the seat of justice, is the only other town in the county, and is situated at the upper Yellow bank, just above Edwards river, nearly opposite the mouth of the Lower Iowa, a considerable stream of the Wisconsin territory. This place has a good landing and a fine harbor, and when the opposite territory becomes settled it cannot fail to become a town of considerable importance, as it will be the commercial entrepot of a large extent of fertile country."

#### HABITS AND CUSTOMS OF THE PIONEERS.

Perhaps most of the grown people of this section have some knowledge, either by actual observation or from the lips of the few worthy pioneers who still linger on the shores of time, of the early modes of life which obtained during most of the first quarter of a century of its history. But the last original settler will soon have left us, and then these things, but for the historian's pen, would become but matters of tradition. Even now, amongst the younger class, the stories of the early hardships, trials and triumphs of this worthy class of heroic men and women, are not so very fully realized, and in the near future an account of what were once considered "afflictions grievous to be borne," will, without doubt, prove interesting reading to the grandchildren of those whose voices will have been hushed, and whose weary bodies will have been lain away in the soil they first turned to the sun.

*Hine they came.*—A single instance would almost answer for the history of the emigration of all of the early settlers to this section. We will give it in substance, though not exactly in the words of one who came to this country in 1838 :

Far across the dense woodlands of Indiana, near where Ohio's broad waters roll onward to join the Mississippi in its course to the great ocean, among the graceful forest trees, and gushing springs and fertile fields of Ohio, rests in quiet beauty a shady hillside, a bright green valley, and a dancing water-brook. Near the lane which passes this spot and crosses the little stream of water just beyond, may be seen a fine old farm house surrounded with towering elms and fronted with evergreens of different varieties. But not with this place, as it exists to-day, has our narrative to do. True, the surroundings have changed but little in half a century. The trees are much larger, and the house has been so metamorphosed that its former occupant would not recognize it; but the hillside and the brook, the valley and the forest, present the same appearance as when forty-odd years ago the scene which we are about to describe might have been witnessed.

It was no uncommon occurrence that was taking place there, but because of its being a usual circumstance it becomes of the greater importance and is described the more minutely. To the parties concerned, however, it was a matter of the greatest moment. The family who had for years occupied this place had caught a glimpse of the wonderful country in the Bounty tract, one of the number having the year before made a trip to the new State of Illinois and brought back glowing accounts of the broad prairies, the fine belts of timber, the richness of the soil, the abundance of game, and the many other real and fancied advantages to the emigrant bold enough to face the dangers and privations incident to a pioneer life. The matter had been talked over for many months. The children talked it over and wondered at the length of the journey, the exciting incidents of the trip, and the novel scenes that awaited them in their new home, little comprehending the hardships to which they would be subjected. The mother and wife had said but little, but naturally shrank from the trial of leaving relatives, friends and home, and taking up her abode in the wilderness. She could scarcely reconcile herself to the life of privation, and perhaps danger, that awaited her and those she loved. But the father argued that the little farm on which they lived, and rented by the year, but barely gave them a support: that the prospect, as much as he liked his neighbors, and much as he prized the social and other privileges, was very feeble for an independence. He was advancing in years, and the children would soon arrive at manhood and womanhood with no provision for old age for himself and wife, and with nothing for the young folks with which to begin life. And so it was decided to remove to what seemed to be the land of promise.

Accordingly, their plans had been announced to their neighbors, a sale had been made of what they found to be superfluous articles, though perhaps with a view to realize a little ready money, with which to make a substantial start in their new location and to liquidate a few debts that had been contracted at the stores, and all was ready for the journey.

The wagon had been backed to the front door the evening before, and the cows, and a few sheep, that they had concluded to take with them, and which had been reserved from the sale, had been penned up, that they might not stray away before the hour at which they were wanted to begin the journey. The morning had arrived, the candles were lighted, the fire in the fireplace was crackling, and the kettle boiling, preparatory to taking the last meal in the house. The breakfast was dispatched in an unusually short time, and then commenced the exciting process of packing up. Bedsteads were knocked to pieces,



bed-clothes were thrown in all directions, and things in general presented a confused appearance. The children seemed to enjoy the excitement, the mother hastened about, but on her face was a look of dejection; but the father and husband moved around with a firm gait, attending to the work of preparation with no sign that betrayed the feeling of reluctance with which he was leaving the place that he had for so many years called home, though doubtless much of his cheerfulness was assumed for the effect that his demeanor might have on the other members of the family.

Soon the household effects and the simpler class of farming utensils were stowed away in the wagon, the bows to support the wagon cover were put in their staples, and the white cover stretched on and tied. Then the oxen were hitched to the wagon, the sheep and cows turned into the road, and all were ready to start.

Numerous relatives and friends by this time had gathered to bid them good-by, looking on in the meantime with mingled feelings of sorrow and wonder. When at last the moment for starting came, the wife broke into weeping; and though the husband showed no outward signs of regret, when he bid his nearest friends farewell his hand shook a little and his voice was husky.

Such a trip as lay before these adventurers would now be considered comparatively a trivial undertaking, but at the time of which we write it was of a more serious nature. It would well compare with the embarkation of the hundred pilgrims, who left their native shores two hundred years earlier to make their way across the boundless deep, to find a home in the new world. Indeed, the hardships of the wilderness road which lay before were greater than those experienced by the emigrants of the *Mayflower*. The length of time required to complete the journey was almost as great.

The mother and the youngest children rode in the wagon, while the father and oldest boy trudged along on foot to guide the oxen and attend to the stock. It would be interesting to listen to the account of all the incidents of their long and tedious journey, but time and space forbids more than brief allusions. The roads, even in Ohio and Indiana, were but poor, and after crossing the Wabash, consisted of mere trails across prairies, through sloughs, fording creeks and ferrying rivers. There were but few bridges across the streams then, especially on this side of the Wabash, and after some days out some of the streams were found to be so swollen by recent rains that the emigrants were compelled to go into camp for several days to wait for the flood to subside. On one such occasion they became so impatient that, putting into the stream before it had fallen sufficiently, they all came near

losing their lives. At another place, where there was a prospect of having to stay several days, a raft was constructed of timbers cut and prepared on the spot, and lashed together with bed cords. On this they crossed to the other side, bringing over the last wheel of the wagon after a whole day's work, thus camping only a few hundred feet from their camping place of the night before. Their little stock of provisions soon gave out, but they did not suffer for lack of food, as the timber was full of game and the rifle supplied them with plenty of meat. The cattle easily subsisted upon the grass that grew along the road. However, the journey was a wearisome one, and all were well pleased when at length it was completed.

Finally, at the close of a weary day, the company came to a halt, not with a design of locating at this stopping place, but, knowing that they must be in the vicinity of the point toward which they had been traveling, they concluded to camp a few days and look around. Accordingly, arrangements for more than an ordinary stop were made, and our pioneer the next day started out on foot to select a location for his future home, leaving his family in camp. After a few day's search, he had fully made up his mind, and the camp was removed to the spot selected for the future home, provided the land was not already the property of some one else. It was yet early spring and they at once set about planting some corn and other vegetables, even before the land they were breaking had been secured, living in the meantime in the now empty box of the wagon.

After the crop was planted, the father made his way to the land office, and secured the quarter on which he had pitched his tent. By fall, a cabin was erected, and thus began the new life of one of the many brave families who at that early date came to this country to seek an independence and a home.

Doubtless many of the earliest settlers will recognize the experiences of this family thus far as that of their own, and many of the younger people will imagine they have heard the story before, as told by father or mother, who may long since have been laid to rest in the little cemetery at Sugar Grove or the Yellow Banks, near the great river.

The experiences of the first emigrants were so similar that a repetition of them destroys the novelty; but it could never destroy the charm or lose the interest, while at the same time it renders the faithful description the more valuable, applying as it does, to so many cases. With the change of the name of the state from which the family came, and the addition or suppression of a few more details which marked their journey, no doubt the narrative might be made to fit the emigra-



tion to this section of a majority of its early occupants. A few brought horses, which drew the great prairie schooner wagon, and not infrequently a horse and an ox did duty in the same team. A single ox or a single horse has drawn to this country all of the worldly wealth possessed by some of what have proved its most worthy citizens.

*The First Dwellings.*—Judge Gilmore, whose recollection of the early features of the country are probably as correct as any, gives us the pen picture of the pioneer cabin which follows. The pioneer cabins were nearly all built after the same pattern, the plans and specifications being very simple indeed. The building site was a spot in the edge of the grove, so as to be near the patch of prairie designed to be cultivated, and within the shelter of the grove for the protection of themselves and stock from the cold winds of winter. This was considered a colder climate than that from which most of them had come, and protection from its inclemencies was a matter for serious consideration.

The very first cabins were constructed from logs entirely undressed, the small difference in length being considered no disadvantage to looks or utility. The trees selected for the purpose were generally a foot or less in diameter. From these logs were cut, usually about sixteen feet in length. In both ends of the logs notches were cut to receive the notches cut in each other, so that in their building up they would lie close one upon the other, in the manner of a rail pen. When the pen was built to the height of six or seven feet, a portion of one or two logs on one side would be removed for a window; another opening would be made for a door, and another for the stick and mud chimney, which would be built outside as a kind of an addition to the house.

In winter the windows consisted of greased paper pasted over the opening mentioned. In summer none were needed. The door was usually made from boards that had been fashioned from a straight grained tree by no other tool than the ax. The latch was a home-made affair, similar to those still to be seen on farm gates. A little above the latch a small auger hole was bored through the door, and through this hung a thong of buckskin attached to the latch, by which it could be lifted from the outside by pulling the string.

The floor of the dwelling in very many instances was the earth. The hearth of the fire place, where the cooking was done, was made of such flat stones as could be found in their natural state. A little later bricks for this purpose, and in a few instances for entire chimneys, were made by tramping mud in a box with the bare feet and burning a few hundred of them at a time. Abraham Miller, formerly of Mercer county, but now in Oregon, writes that he made the first bricks ever

used in Mercer county, and that the mud for them was mixed with his bare feet.

The cabins were covered with boards riven from straight grained trees the full length of one side of the building, and held in their places by the weight of the bodies of small trees. The cracks between the logs composing the sides of the cabin were filled with wedge shaped pieces of wood called "chinks," and these were daubed over with mud, the hands in many cases being used as the trowel. Abraham Miller says that the young men were particular to leave finger marks on this kind of work, as it was a sure road into the good graces of the maidens, who held this sign of industry and democracy in high repute.



A PIONEER LOG CABIN.

In the construction of these simple dwellings the only tools employed were an ax, a saw and an auger, and in very many cases only the ax. Not a nail or any piece of iron was used, and not a pane of glass; neither paint nor plaster were available.

Decorations, such as pictures or brackets for the walls, would have been a great curiosity. In their place festoons of corn for the next year's planting hung from poles in the upper space of the cabins. The trusty rifle lay in two wooden hooks over the door or fire place, and from pegs near the chimney often hung bits of venison that were being dried for future use, and was called "jerk." These were the decorations of grandfather's house.



The pioneer cabin has seen its day, however, and is now a thing of the past. It has been superseded by the more pretentious hewed log house of two or more rooms, and this in turn has given place to the fine frame and brick dwellings which dot the prairies and groves all over. A few of the ancient cabins are still doing service as pig-sties or hen houses, and the modern traveler would hardly dream that once they were the dwellings of large and happy families.

We give in this connection a view of a cabin still standing in Eliza township, Mercer county, though the artist has had to draw somewhat on imagination for the surroundings, as the once pioneer mansion now serves the ignoble purpose of sheltering the chickens.

*Ancient House Furniture.*—Perhaps in nothing has there been a greater change than in the furniture, both ornamental and useful, with which the houses of this county have been supplied. Any one curious enough to make a list of the numberless articles now considered indispensable to a well furnished house, will be surprised to find that scarcely an article now in use was in the early times of this section even known. And so also the few utensils and ornaments used by our grandmothers would be curiosities now. Sewing machines only began to come into use here in about 1860, and now scarcely a family is without one. Grandmother Dennison, of Keithsburg, says all of the clothing in use by the family was made by the skillful and industrious fingers of the housewife with the needle and thimble. Not only so, but even the cloth of which the clothes were made was a home manufacture. Each family kept a few sheep, and from these the wool was sheared, washed, picked, carded, spun, woven, dyed and cut, in many instances, all at home.

None of the young ladies of to-day know what a “wool pickin’” is. The last one was had years ago. The picking of the particles of dirt and burs from the fleece was a very tedious process, and in the early times it was customary for the matron of the family to call in the help of all the young and middle aged ladies for some miles around to assist in this work. These invitations were gladly accepted, for the picking always ended with a frolic at night, to which the young ladies’ beaux were invited.

So in the making up of clothing, there were in use the big sheep shears, the cards, which were two instruments much resembling the instruments used for currying horses at the present day, the spinning-wheel, the hand loom and the dye kettle. None of these remain in use, but occasionally one may be found in the garret of the house of an old settler.

Many of the early settlers were skillful in the use of some of the

simplest tools of the shoemaker, and could turn out a decent, but rough pair of shoes from leather that they had themselves tanned from the skins of animals that they had themselves reared. Even the lasts and the pegs were of home manufacture. The simple kits of tools used in the manufacture of leather and shoes were, however, soon superseded by the tan yards and the professional shoemaker, and they in turn have had their time and are almost extinct. The few pelts that are now taken from the cattle are sent to the great cities and tanned by improved processes, made into shoes by machines driven by steam, and shipped back to us in nice green boxes containing a dozen pairs of all sizes and qualities.

The culinary implements were as rude and simple as it is possible to conceive. The old Dutch oven for baking bread, a skillet and an iron pot, that hung from a wooden hook in the great wide chimney, were about all that were considered necessary for baking, frying and boiling. There was not a stove in the county until about 1845, and, therefore, the fireplace, extending almost across one end of the cabin, was the only source of heat in the winter, and also answered all the demands of cooking. Even the first cook stoves were simple affairs compared to those in present use, and were constructed with a double purpose of heating and cooking.

In a letter from Abraham Miller, he says: "Our early crops were mainly corn, wheat, oats, flax for home use, and the most useful vegetables of all kinds, all of which did remarkably well. We raised melons in abundance. The only market point for the county was New Boston, then only known as Dennison's Landing and wood yard, at upper Yellow Sand Banks, on the Mississippi river. The first store or trading post was there in 1834, and was kept by a man by the name of Irvin, who was very exact, both in a commercial and moral point of view. He was a seceder by profession. So correct was he in his views of the Sabbath that he penned up his rooster on that day, that he might not disturb the holy day. This is neither jest nor hoax. I only mention it to show that, in those early times and among backwoods settlers, religious rites, according to each order, were strictly observed. Prices of produce were very low. Wheat was not more than forty cents per bushel, and this was the highest priced article, proportionately, that the farmer had to sell. In those days we were all new beginners and had but little surplus to market. We raised our own hogs and hominy, killed deer, wild turkeys, prairie hens, caught fish and found wild bees. We had to get what little groceries we had with raccoon and deer skins, and frequently the best of us did without any. We were inured to anything from hard times down, and small privations were not noted.



Our wives and daughters could spin and weave, and wear the product of their own industry. We drank parched corn or pea coffee until we got to raising wheat and rye enough to answer the purpose. We drank tea made from sycamore chips. A favorite tea was made of red-root leaves, sweated under a Dutch oven, rolled between the two hands and dried. When drawn and sweetened with well scummed honey, your readers are assured it was not bad to take. This tea we called grub hyson. An early merchant of New Boston, after the discovery of this tea, caught at the idea, and when his black tea ran short in the store, tradition says, he sold many a pound of red-root leaves.

“The men and boys could wear buckskin breeches; and a coon-skin cap, with the tail dangling behind the head as an ornament thereto, was not a novel sight. We were all poor, but on a social equality. We hardly had an idea of what aristocracy was. With the greatest of pleasure I yet look back on those good old times as my golden days, when all around was clothed in the wild, yet gorgeous robes of nature, and while its half-forgotten scenery plays about and flits across memory’s path, imagination paints the flush of youth where age as well as grief have coursed bitter tears down its lachrymal furrows. Despite this, for the moment, the blood of boyhood rushes through the sunken veins and makes the aged young.

“We had our backwoods mechanic in almost every farmer and farmer’s boy, who learned early in life, and who turned his hand to anything necessary for carrying on our backwoods operations, both in wood and iron. But as the country grew up mechanics of almost all kinds dropped in, but it was only upon a small scale that they were patronized, or that they expected patronage, as they generally added to their mechanical skill agricultural industries, and pursued their trades only at odd times.”

The wool picking has been alluded to. It had its corresponding diversion for the young men in the corn husking, or “shuckin’,” as it was called. It was common, not only in the early days, but until within a score of years, to break the ears from the stalks as they stood in the field, and haul them to the vicinity of the barn and then invite all the young men to come in on some afternoon or evening to strip them of their husks. Thus a wearisome task for the single handed farmer, requiring weeks of labor, would be performed in a single evening. The husking bee would usually end with a sumptuous supper, and frequently with a spree, to which the young ladies had been previously invited. Other pastimes of the olden time, some of which are but barely obsolete, were the quiltings, which partook of features of the wool pickings, the singing schools, the spellings, wolf hunts, house and

barn raisings. At all of these the young people took great interest and manifested their skill according to the adaptation of age or sex for such amusements.

The Fourth of July was, fifty years ago, kept more as a reminder of its origin than it is to-day, and some of the early celebrations were grand affairs. There was less of show and noise than to-day, but of all that goes to make up a grand holiday, and that conduces to a hearty rejoicing on account of our country's independence, was present in full force. The people were more democratic in their habits and thoughts, and consequently a gathering of the kind embraced all the citizens of the county. Not unfrequently a revolutionary hero honored the scene with his presence, and exhibited himself in the evolutions and drill learned by necessity in his country's birth.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The Eastern, Middle and Southern states, from which the early settlers came, were densely covered with a vigorous growth of timber. A patch of prairie was a curiosity east or south of the center of Indiana. The avocations of the pioneer in the east and south had been, for the first half of his manhood, to cut down the giant trees of the forest, roll the logs together and burn them. With the unpleasant remembrances of log rolling, brush burning and stump grubbing, it seems a little strange that the prairies of the Mississippi valley and the tributaries thereto were not the very first to claim the early settler's attention. Here were open farms ready for the plow. Not a stump, or a root, or a stone, was in the way of immediate successful cultivation. The oldest and most carefully cultivated fields of Ohio, Indiana or Kentucky, from which most of the first settlers came, were not as clear of obstacles to the agriculturist's implements as were the prairies of Mercer county.

Then where shall we seek for the reasons for the neglect of the more generous soil of the prairie and the preference for groves and the poorer soil bordering thereon? We must not forget that times have greatly changed within a half century. Implements that could not be used on rough and stumpy grounds are a modern invention. Corn planters, grain drills, reapers and cultivators were invented after the prairies began to be cultivated, and their uses admissable. These machines were not invented for the rough lands of the east, but for the broad, level fields of the western states.

Again, we must keep in mind, habits of thought and action are not very easily changed. In parts of the old world implements of agriculture have not changed much in some thousands of years. The



pioneers of this county were used to a wooded country. They were used to having stake and ridged fences; houses and barns made of logs; used to having large, blazing fires of wood in the large chimney place in the winter, and used to wasting large quantities of fine logs by burning in great heaps every year. So when they came here, with all these habits and predispositions, it must naturally have occurred to them that the supply of wood was limited and everyone sought for a good piece of timber, which should adjoin another piece of prairie, whether that prairie was of the best or not. So we find all of the first settlers hugging close to the water-courses upon whose banks grew the only reminder of their former southern or eastern homes.

One need not in this respect be told the early history of any locality in the state. The same rule governed all over, and Mercer county was no exception. Of course, navigation had something to do with settling the shores of such streams as were large enough to allow the steamboat to ply back and forth upon its waters. Steamboats began running along the Mississippi in 1823, and to this circumstance, doubtless, we can trace very many of the first settlements in the valley. The vicinity of New Boston was permanently occupied first by parties who supplied the boats with wood, and this, indeed, was the very first settlement made by white men in the county. It was in the year 1827 that the Dennison family came to that point to supply the boats with fuel, and in the plat of the town of New Boston they as proprietors reserve the right to the monopoly of that trade, and of running a ferry. The Dennisons were a large and respectable family, who had come originally from Indiana, but had lived a year in Sangamon county.

These were the first to make what is now embraced in Mercer county a permanent home. Through the influence of this family others came in, a year or two later, and settled in the immediate neighborhood. Indians were still plenty on this side of the river and some of them were quite unfriendly to the encroaching settler, though they endeavored to keep up a show of friendship with the government. This hostile disposition on the part of the Indians made it not only desirable, but imperative, that settlers should keep within a reasonable distance of each other, and of the river, and for this reason, more than any other, no settlements were made far up the Edwards or Pope rivers until after the Indians had been removed in 1832.

Among the earliest records of Warren county we find the names of parties who voted once or twice in this vicinity, but of whose identity all other trace seems to have been lost. The earliest settler cannot now even remember the names. These were probably steamboat men, hunters or laborers, who possibly may have been here but a few days.

In those times the ballot was not guarded so closely but that a man could have deposited his ballot, even if he had not been in the precinct the prescribed number of days. The names of such cut no figure in the history of the county, and need not be even repeated here.

We have to do especially with those who came here to reside, to subdue the forest and the soil, to provide for families who have since made themselves known and felt in the community, who founded society and moulded opinions, and who, in a general way, have left their mark upon the county. They are yet known, or if departed, they are remembered for their bravery, their endurance of hardships, their virtue and honor. Of such we desire to write, and of such we desire to perpetuate the memories.

The Dennison family came originally from Ohio, and lived a short time in Indiana. In 1826 they came to Sangamon county in this state and stayed about a year, and in the year above named came to the vicinity of New Boston. For two years the Dennisons and Shaunces, who at that time lived a few miles farther north, and the Vanatas at Keithsburg, were almost the sole occupants of the county. In 1830 the census reports show Mercer county as having a population of only twenty-seven persons, and these nearly all belonged to the two families named. In 1831 the Indian troubles began, and did not end until the fall of 1832, and of course no additions were made during that time, nor indeed for a year or so after, when confidence in the peaceful solution of the troubles was fully restored.

The year 1834 brought a number of settlers, not only to the Dennison neighborhood, but to other portions of the county. In the spring of the year named, several persons from Indiana came in and took claims, planted sod corn, and went back in the fall and brought out their families. Among those worthy of record were Joseph Glancey, Wm. Drury, William, Newton J. and Joshua Willits, Isaac Drury, Joseph, John S. and Lewis Noble.

Several of the names mentioned will be found in future pages with extensive and numerous notices, as they proved to be valuable acquisitions to the then new but growing community. Jesse Willits was afterward first probate judge, with his appointment from the governor. His name appears on the poll book as the first man to deposit a ballot, after the county was organized in 1835. Silas Drury was the first sheriff, and Isaac Drury was one of the first county commissioners. Other prominent settlers in the west end of the county (and then considered in reality the same neighborhood), were John Long, first school commissioner, Wm. I. Nevius, Eli Reynolds, a physician, and Isaac Dawson, a carpenter.



In the meantime a new and distinct settlement was forming, some ten miles up the Edwards river, at a point then and for years afterward known as the Sugar Grove settlement, and after the organization of the county, called the Sugar Grove precinct. A large family, consisting of four brothers, John, Isaac, George and Abraham Miller, with several relatives and friends, settled at this point in 1834, completely surrounding the grove. The Miller family was originally from Crab Orchard, Tennessee, whence they had removed to near Crawfordsville, Indiana, in about 1820. From that place several members of the family came on here, in the latter part of April, 1834, bringing with them several yoke of oxen and some agricultural implements, for the purpose of making claims and of planting sod corn. All but Abraham Miller, Junior (son of George Miller), and his wife and wife's sister, returned to Indiana and came out subsequently. Abraham Miller, Jun., proved to be a man of much note in public affairs of this county, and indeed the whole family was, for ten years or more, during their sojourn here, an influential one.

Abraham Miller remained with the growing crops, built a cabin, and became the first permanent settler of the grove, and indeed of a radius of ten or twelve miles. Several other families, some relatives and others mere acquaintances, followed these during the next season, so that by the time the county was organized in 1835, it was found most convenient to divide the county into two precincts: the one at New Boston, which had just been laid out and given that name, instead of Dennison's Landing, and the Sugar Grove precinct. By the fall of 1835 there were probably about sixty inhabitants in and about the Grove, and between 200 and 250 in the whole county.

The groves along the Edwards river were gradually being occupied by settlers, who pushed farther and farther toward its source. In the spring of 1835 a distinct settlement, known as the Richland settlement, or Farlow's Grove, was begun. This was not in what is now known as Richland Grove township, but in reality along the north side of the Edwards, in what is now Preemption township.

John Farlow and family, who settled on section 22, came from Indiana in the spring of 1835, and settled as stated. In the fall of the same year Hopkins Boone, now a resident of Viola, occupied section 34. Mr. Boone, with his family, came from Pennsylvania. This was the farthest from the mouth of the river that any one had yet settled, and indeed at that time there was not a family residing between that point and the Rock river, nor for many miles to the east, and but one family on the south, between that and Monmouth. The next spring (1836) Rev. John Montgomery, a Presbyterian minister, and James

Boone, came out from Pennsylvania and located in the Richland neighborhood. Gabriel Barkley, Rev. Joseph Jones, a Baptist minister, and C. Miller, came the same year from Indiana and settled in the vicinity of Farlow's Grove.

Thus have we traced the main settlements of the Edwards valley, from the mouth of that river to near the eastern line of the county. In the same way the banks of Pope creek were being occupied, but not quite so rapidly, nor were the neighborhoods quite so distinct, but were considered somewhat as branches of the three principal settlements named. Up the North Henderson, from the vicinity of Oquawka, the pioneer was gradually extending his domain, until the banks of these streams were lined on either side, where grew the native forests, with the pioneer's cabins and the pioneer's patches of corn and other crops.

As the settlements grew older and more populous they gradually divided in interest, and centers began to form at points which at the first were considered as being in the same neighborhood, and thus two or more new neighborhoods were by common consent, and by convenience, formed from one. Keithsburg and Eliza, on the west side of the county, separated their interests from New Boston. Ohio Grove, farther up the Pope, and North Henderson, became more distinct and held less close relations with Sugar Grove or the Miller neighborhood. Most of these places had for their centers either a post office or a voting place, and in some cases a church organization was the distinctive feature.

#### ORGANIZATION OF MERCER COUNTY.

By the year 1835 the territory now embraced within the limits of Mercer county had received quite a number of permanent settlers. The Black Hawk war had ended three years previously, and the excitement caused thereby had almost all passed away. Information had been spread abroad that this country, so lately overrun by the Indians, and about which comparatively little was known, was one of the most desirable for settlement in the west. Accordingly, emigrants began to find their way up the Mississippi and overland, from the more thickly settled portions of Ohio, in search of cheap homes; some in search of good hunting grounds, the game having begun to be scarce in their former haunts. So they came, some on horseback, some on foot, some up the river on boats, and some in wagons, bringing with them all their worldly goods, and their families. Nearly all were poor, but nearly all came with the one purpose of securing an independence and a home for their families, which could not be obtained in the older sections of



the country, where land had already become comparatively dear. The first settlements were made along the Mississippi river, and from thence they gradually spread outward and followed the smaller rivers toward their sources. By the date named, there were probably forty or fifty families in the territory designed for Mercer county.

The act of the legislature organizing the county was passed January 31, 1835. By a provision of the act, an election was directed to be held on the first Monday of April, 1835, in the town of New Boston, at the house of Eli Reynolds, and at the house of Geo. Miller, for county officers. James Irvin, George Piper and Benjamin Vanata, or any two of them, were to be judges at New Boston, and George Miller, David Shaunce and Ebenezer Cresswell, or any two of them, at the house of George Miller. New Boston was designated as the temporary county seat. The following is an exact copy of the act, as will be found on page 156 of the session laws for the year 1835, and as it will be deemed a historical relic by many, we think it advisable to give it entire.

AN ACT TO ORGANIZE MERCER COUNTY.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the people of the state of Illinois represented in the general assembly, That on the first Monday of April next, between the hours of eight o'clock in the morning and seven o'clock in the evening, an election shall be held in the town of New Boston, at the house of Eli Reynolds, and the house of George Miller, in the county of Mercer, for three county commissioners, one sheriff, and one coroner, for said county, who shall continue in office until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.

SEC. 2. That James Irvin, George Piper and Benjamin Vanata, or any two of them, shall be judges of the election to be held at the town of New Boston, and George Miller, David \*Shonce and Ebenezer Cresswell, or any two of them, shall be judges of the election to be held at the house of George Miller. Said judges shall be authorized to appoint two clerks at each precinct, and said judges and clerks shall be qualified in the same manner as judges and clerks of elections are now required by law, and said elections shall in every respect be conducted in conformity with the election laws of this state.

SEC. 3. Until the county seat of said county of Mercer shall be located, it shall be the duty of the county commissioner's court of said county to procure a suitable house at New Boston, and the several courts shall be held at New Boston until suitable buildings are furnished at the county seat thereafter to be located, and the said town of New Boston is hereby declared the temporary seat of said county of Mercer until the same shall be permanently located by law.

SEC. 4. Said county of Mercer is hereby declared to be organized, with such corporate powers as belong to other counties in this state.

This act to be in force from and after its passage.

Approved January 31, 1835.

The act was passed at Vandalia, which was at that date the capital of the state, to and from which the legislator of the olden time, unlike

\*Shaunce.



VASHTI DRURY.

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his more aristocratic successor who may travel in the palace cars, journeyed to and fro on horseback, with his changes of raiment strapped on behind his saddle.

The act of organization was completed on the 6th day of April of the same year by the election of officers, as provided in the law. Two voting places were designated. The one precinct embracing the territory in the west part of the county, and the other the eastern settlements. At the election in the New Boston precinct there were thirty-five votes cast for Edward Willett for coroner; twenty-five and twelve votes respectively for Silas Drury and John Long for sheriff; and twenty-four, thirty-three, sixteen and thirty votes, respectively, for Isaac Drury, Abraham Miller, Joseph Noble and Erastus Dennison for county commissioners. Jesse Willits, Benjamin Vanata and Samuel Piper were the judges, and William C. Townsend and Ephraim Gilmore acted as clerks. At the Miller precinct, Isaac Drury, Joseph Noble, Erastus Dennison and Abraham Miller received five, nine, thirteen and twelve votes, respectively, for commissioners; John Long received six, and Silas Drury seven, votes for sheriff, and Edward Willett received thirteen votes for coroner. David Shaunce and Ebenezer Cresswell acted as judges, and John and Abraham Miller as clerks. The result of the election can be seen by the reader without recapitulation.

We cannot think of a more interesting item of history than the list of names of those who took part in the election that day, as showing who were the residents, heads of families and politicians of Mercer county in 1835. A number of the names figure prominently in the history of the county, some drop out of sight in a very few years, and a very few, with whitening heads and bent forms, are still with us to tell the story of the early times, waiting only a little while when they will follow on to a new and better country beyond the river of time. As the list is short we give it entire, as recorded on the poll book of the two precincts. There may have been a few others entitled to vote, but if there were their names are not now remembered.

Jesse Willits, Samuel Piper, Benjamin Vanata, Hamilton Christie, Newton Willits, John Long, Silas Drury, Lewis Noble, William Drury, George Fisher, Joseph Leonard, William Jackson, William Willits, John Hall, Elias Fisher, William Wilson, John Kester, James H. Barnes, William J. Nevius, Joseph Dennison, William Pool, Adam W. Richie, John Richardson, W. Dennison, John Reynolds, Edward Willett, William Dennison, Joseph Noble, Joseph Glancy, Isaac Drury, M. Leeper, Jesse Kester, Robert Reynolds, E. S. Dennison, Ephraim Gilmore, William C. Townsend. Second precinct—John W.



Dennison, David Shaunce, Eli Reynolds, Isaac Dawson, John Farlow, John Shaunce, George Miller, Ebenezer Creswell, Abraham Miller, Sen., John Miller, A. Miller, Jun., Harrison W. Riggs, George Miller, Jun.

One week after the first election was held (April 13, 1835) the commissioner's court, corresponding in later times to the board of supervisors, met at New Boston and transacted the first public business. The court consisted of the recently elected commissioners, Isaac Drury, Abraham Miller and Erastus Dennison. The first business was to appoint a clerk, which they did in the person of William C. Townsend. Ephraim Gilmore was then appointed treasurer, John Long, school commissioner, Harrison W. Riggs, judge of election in first, and Isaac Miller in second precinct. William Dennison was granted a license to run a ferry at New Boston, on the Mississippi river, for which Dennison had to pay four dollars tax. In his license he was allowed to charge for ferriage for 1835: for each four-horse wagon, \$1.50; two-horse wagon, \$1; man and horse, 50c; one horse, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c; cattle, each, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c; sheep and hogs, each, 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ c; each footman, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ c (it will be noticed that it was somewhat cheaper for a man to send his horse across alone); each yoke of work cattle, 50c (cheaper to send them separately). The county was laid off into four road districts, of which Abraham Miller was designated as supervisor of first, Lewis Noble of second, Jesse Kester of third, and James H. Bane of fourth. Ordered that a tax of \$1.20 be levied on each quarter section of taxable land in the county. The above embraced all of the business of the first day.

On the second day, Tuesday morning at eight o'clock, the court, consisting of the commissioners, the clerk, and Silas Drury, sheriff, met and transacted additional important business. The following persons were selected as grand jurors for the first term of circuit court in Mercer county: George Miller, Isaac Miller, John Farlow, Jesse Willits, John Hill, Mark Willits, David Shaunce, Lewis Noble, Daniel Pinkley, John W. Dennison, William Willits, Joseph Glancey, John Reynolds, George Blake, Benjamin Vanata, John Long, James Irvin, Wesley Wicks, Ephraim Gilmore, John Kester, Jesse Kester, Thomas Morgan and John Bates. And for petit jurors: John Miller, Isaac Miller, George Miller, Abraham Miller, Isaac Dawson, William W. Wilson, John Shaunce, Isaac Drury, Wm. H. Dennison, Joseph Noble, Joseph A. Dennison, William Drury, Harrison W. Riggs, William Jackson, Robert Reynolds, Newton Willits, Joseph Leonard, Joshua Willits, James H. Bane, Eli Reynolds, John P. Reynolds, Drury Reynolds, Christopher Shuck, John Rankins. This, with the addition of levying a tax of one-half of one per cent on certain personal property, embraced all the business of the special term.

At the first regular term, which was held June 1, 1835, though the first appointed clerk had recorded, as the first item, that he had taken the oath and given bond, he failed to get the bond approved, and so at the regular meeting it was found necessary to appoint a new clerk, in the person of William Drury, upon which Mr Townsend resigned. Mr. Drury did not experience the trouble in giving security, as did his predecessor, E. S. Dennison and Joseph Leonard going on the bond in the sum of \$1,000. Mr. Drury made a good clerk and served until succeeded by Abaham Miller in October 1837. Mr. Drury, in signing his name to all of his legal documents, makes a peculiar flourish beneath his signature, which cannot be described without an engraving, and indeed which could not be easily imitated. Judge Gilmore is our authority for a story that has been received for more than forty years as genuine history, that when Miller was elected to succeed Drury, he was found one day sitting on the sand bank barefooted trying to cut the figure in the sand with his great toe. The evidence in the record bearing on the case is quite strong. The first two or three times that Miller signs his name to the record there is an evident, but fruitless, attempt to imitate Drury's flourish, but after that it is entirely abandoned.

In the Recorder's office is a relic that marks its author as a boss mechanic. It consists of a blank book of home manufacture, and to William Drury is given the credit of its construction. It is one of the first record books, and its description is worthy of a place here. The book consists of about one hundred pages of foolscap paper. This the maker evidently ruled himself with columns to suit his convenience, and also headed in a proper manner. The cord for binding the leaves together seems to have been a fishing line, or some other equally strong cord. The sides are two oak boards, evidently rived from a straight-grained tree and dressed down with a draw shave; or if with the axe, must have been by an exceedingly skillful hand. The sides are then covered with paper that seems to have been a window blind. The back and corners are buckskin, doubtless taken from the body of some deer shot by the rifle of the bookmaker and tanned by himself. The book is in excellent preservation, as are all the old records of Mercer county, which show that our first officers were not only men of ability and taste, but that they exercised proper care of what was entrusted to their keeping.

Mr. Miller doubtless had in his soul real genius, and though he could not imitate Drury's flourish, has left evidences of his invention and artistic skill upon the records. In one of the records we find the title page decorated with red, black and yellow colors, the artist's hand revealing itself in gaudy colors and finely displayed printing, of which the following is as nearly a copy as our type will represent :



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In another record, Mr. Miller makes a further display of his skill in the use of the brush. The law required that the owners of stock should mark the same by a cut of some kind in one of the ears of the animal. Some chose as their mark a slit in the right, some a crop from the left ear, and the crops, slits and quarters of either ear were varied to suit the taste of the owner. To make these distinctions legal, it was necessary to have a description of the same recorded in a book used for the "recording of marks of animals." The common method with recorders is to write the description, appending the name of the owner, with date of entry, but Mr. Miller, finding this a good opportunity for the display of his genius, paints in the margin of the record the whole animal, with the particular ear, minus the crop, pointing directly to the name of the man who mutilated it.

The first business transacted at this term of court was the granting of a license to Eli Reynolds to vend groceries in New Boston, for which privilege he had to pay into the treasury of the county  $87\frac{1}{2}$  cents. The first road established by authority of the county was ordered at this term. The road was from New Boston toward Rock Island, and was designated by stakes driven in the prairie and trees blazed through the timber. The road was viewed by Ephraim Gilmore, Harrison W. Riggs and Lewis Noble, for which services they received in the aggregate the sum of \$8. Of course it is not a profane pun, but simply a coincidence of euphony, that at this meeting the board ordered that a writ of *ad quod dam-num* be granted to Silas B. Hubbard to enquire and ascertain what *damages* may be sustained by building a mill and *dam* on Edwards river. An *ad quod dam-num* was also granted to Charles Jack in regard to *damages* for a mill *dam* on same river.

The county at this session was laid off into two justice districts. The New Boston district embraced all that part of the county lying west of the middle of township 4, and the balance of the county embraced the Sugar Grove district.

The state road from Knoxville to New Boston was at this session endorsed.

For a number of terms the most of the business of the court consisted in authorizing roads, and the surveyor was the officer of greatest importance.

The first report by the commissioners made March 9, 1837, is interesting, as compared with similar reports at present. It is given entire :



1836.	RECEIPTS.	\$	cts.
Mar. 7,	Remaining in the treasury .....	4	47½
	Revenue from the state.....	400	00
	Tax on personal property .....	58	61
	Road tax .....	922	38
	Received for licenses.....	35	00
	Interest on notes.....	12	25
		—	1,432 71½
	To amount paid on county orders for county purposes,		439 51½
			—
	Balance in treasury.....	993	20
The above balance included notes for \$950, leaving \$43.20 cash on hand.			

The regular election of county officers occurred August 3, 1835. At this election William Drury was elected recorder, Ephriam Gilmore, surveyor, E. Creswell and Abner Arrasmith were elected justices of the peace, and John Miller and Wesley Arrasmith, constables. The election of justices and constables was found to be illegal, and a special election was held October 5, for the purpose of electing two justices and two constables for New Boston and one justice and one constable for Sugar Grove precinct. To these offices Joshua Willits and Lewis Noble were elected justices, and Newton I. Willits and William B. Wilson constables, for New Boston, and Abraham Miller, Jun., and John Miller were elected justice and constable, respectively, for Sugar Grove.

An idea of some of the difficulties that our primitive officers had to contend with in administering justice, may be easily gained from the following, in Mr. Abraham Miller's own words: "The first lawsuit ever instituted in the Sugar Grove precinct was by an old Yankee plaintiff (B. Lloyd), who from that time onward kept his neighbors warmed up to more than fever heat with vexatious lawsuits, as far as his neighborhood dealings or business transactions were extended. An excuse for a lawsuit was a sufficient warrant for a 'pitch in.' Sometimes they were civil, sometimes criminal, and sometimes for a supposed trespass. This first suit was the first ever tried before me, and the court was without practice, precedent or law. There was then but one copy of the statutes of Illinois in Mercer county, and that was in the hands of the county clerk (Wm. Drury) at New Boston, and could not be loaned. The justice begged time to get up the papers till law could be procured, but our plaintiff was so rampant for litigation that but little or no time could be given. The poor justice was therefore doomed to saddle 'old gray,' throw a bed quilt around him, and ride some twelve miles over the prairie on a cold, snowy day, with a bleak northwest wind on the side of the court's face, to Dan Edgington's, a justice of the peace in Rock Island county, to borrow a statute. The loan of this

could only be procured for three days, and it would be needless to say that the homestretch of that day's travel was speedily performed. For the three days' grace allowed in the loan, this backwoods justice, now a law-student, plied all his powers, manual and mental. Day and night were spent in poring over this precious volume to discover the duties enjoined upon a justice of the peace, and short notes were taken for future reference. Being rather expert with the pen, a summary statute of Abe's own was compiled, published and issued from the press (not, bless you, reader, from a printing press, but from the compulsory press of necessity), and fit for use in the short space of three days and nights. This backwoods edition, comprised of the general duties of justice and constable, was destined to become as useful and familiar as household words in a family. During the night part of his labor, the second or third night, the court, becoming very drowsy, upset an inkstand, emptying its sable contents upon a good part of a page of the borrowed statutes. Seizing the book, the obliterated part was saved from entire ruin by licking the ink from the same with the tongue. The book was returned within the specified time, with many backwoods thanks and humble apologies for the accident of the old ink horn, all of which were most courteously accepted by Dan, who was every inch of him a backwoods gentleman, and a full pardon granted and graciously accepted." It is needless to add that the Yankee plaintiff got ample justice, as did many others who brought their grievances to this court; for, whatever may have been his peculiarities, he is not accused of any of the peculiar methods that obtain in some high and low courts of a later day.

August 1, 1836, the first election for members of congress and legislature in which the voters of Mercer county took part was held. Of the sixty-seven votes cast for congressman, John T. Stuart received fifty-three and William L. May fourteen. Elijah Charles and James Craig received the highest number of votes for representatives in the state legislature. At that election James H. Bane, Hiram Hardie and James Burleigh were elected county commissioners, and Daniel Pinckley sheriff.

As we have seen, the county was divided into two precincts, or districts, but soon settlements made in the eastern part of the county, far up the Edwards river, called for further division. At the regular meeting of the newly elected commissioners, September 5, 1836, that portion of the county east of a line running due north and south, one mile east of the line dividing ranges two and three west, was erected into a new precinct. This, it will be seen, embraced all of what are now known as Richland Grove, Rivoli and North Henderson town-



ships, and nearly all of Preemption, Green and Suez. The name of Richland was given to this district. One of the commissioners, Hiram Hardie, was a citizen of the district. Besides him there were about one dozen voters.

A year later, September 5, 1837, Richland precinct was divided, forming a new election and justice's district out of all that portion of Richland lying south of the line, separating townships 14 and 15, and leaving Richland with a little less than two congressional townships. The settlements to be provided for were mostly those along Pope creek and the new precinct was called by that name.

Pope creek was now settling rapidly. A year later a new district was found necessary in the southern middle part of the county, and so at the meeting of the board, March 9, 1838, it was ordered that all that part of Sugar Grove lying south of an east and west line equally dividing township 14 be organized and called Ohio precinct. Edwards precinct was formed March 9, 1839, from what are now all of Preemption, the north half of Green, the northeast quarter of Mercer, and the east half of Perryton. At the same meeting Eliza precinct was established, and was composed of the territory which now lies within Eliza township. Keithsburg precinct was formed by the commissioners June 1, 1840, and comprised the territory now embraced in Abington and Keithsburg townships. This provided, as was supposed, all parts of the county with convenient polling places, and with local offices for the government of the different neighborhoods, and these divisions thus remained intact until the adoption of township organization, after which each congressional township, with the exception of the fractional townships of the western portions of Eliza and New Boston, were organized separately. The convenience of this method is apparent. Congressional townships, by act of congress, are separate school townships, and cannot be changed to suit any other boundaries by any state or local enactment.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN MERCER COUNTY.

Prior to the passage of what is known as the "Kansas and Nebraska Act of 1854," Mercer county was a whig county in politics. The democratic party was in a minority of some two or three hundred.

The anti-slavery feeling was strong in both of the old parties, and there were quite a number of voters who were abolitionists or free-soilers, and who would vote for the abolition or free-soil candidates when an opportunity occurred; but the most of these, in all except presidential elections, voted and acted with the other political parties.

When the "Kansas and Nebraska Act" was passed in May, 1854,

it created such an excitement and alarm, that a large number of the people, of both of the old parties, were ready to unite with the free-soilers and abolitionists in the formation of a new party, to resist the aggressive policy of the pro-slavery party, which controlled the two dominant political parties of the United States. Meetings were called as early as June 9, 1854, in two at least of the townships of the county, and resolutions passed in opposition to the "Kansas-Nebraska Act," and calling for a united effort of all persons opposed to the extension of slavery in the territories, to form a political party to stay the aggressive pro-slavery legislation.

Leading citizens of the county conferred with each other; and a convention of all persons in the county, of all political parties, who were opposed to the "Kansas-Nebraska Act" and the extension of slavery in the territories, to meet at Millersburg for the purpose of organizing a new political anti-slavery party.

The convention assembled in Millersburg pursuant to the call, in the summer of 1854, and was represented by delegates from all parts of the county, and from all of the old political parties. John Collins, an old settler, and life-long democrat, was elected president of the convention. A committee of nine was appointed to draft resolutions and articles of organization. The committee was composed of Judge E. Gilmore, a whig and old resident of the county, who had filled many important offices, and who is now (1882) residing in Aledo; James H. Reed, a whig, who was afterward successively editor of the "Oquawka Plaindealer," the "Aledo Weekly Record" and the "Monmouth Atlas," and who died in Monmouth; L. W. Myers, an abolitionist, then a young man, who is now and has been for a number of years, editor of the "Wappello Republican," Iowa; Isaac N. Bassett, a whig, who is still living, a lawyer in Aledo; John W. Miles, a whig, afterward quartermaster of the 17th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., who died in 1863; Harvey S. Senter, a whig, who filled various offices in the county, and has since died in Aledo; Tyler McWhorter, a democrat, now resident near Aledo; Samuel Miller, an abolitionist, who has been dead several years; J. R. Whitham, abolitionist, now residing near Aledo.

There was an animated controversy in the committee room, and at one time it seemed impossible for the committee to agree; but finally resolutions and a platform were agreed upon that was satisfactory to all, and a unanimous report made to the convention, which was adopted, and the organization of the republican party of Mercer county was completed. The exact date of this convention cannot now be ascertained, but it is believed to have been the first county convention of the kind held in the state.



There had not at least been any convention called for a similar purpose in any of the adjoining counties, and Mercer county is properly entitled to the credit of being the pioneer county in the formation of the republican party. The greater part of the whigs in the county approved of the platform, and at once became active members of the new party. Some of the political leaders in the whig party, however, approved the formation of the new party. John S. Thompson and Lewis W. Thompson (both lawyers, and one clerk of the county court in Keithsburg), were at first violently opposed to the new party organization, but another year gave the party such recognition throughout the state and United States that they, with other opponents, ceased their opposition, and became warm supporters of the party.

The abolitionists and free-soilers, with a considerable number of the democrats, were incorporated into the new party, which was, from the commencement, strong in numbers. In the presidential election in 1856, Fremont received 1,141 votes; Buchanan, 769; and Filmore, 140. The Filmore vote doubtless represented the whigs who refused to act with the republican party. In 1860, Lincoln received 1,808 votes, and all the democratic candidates received 1,193 votes, the majority being 615, and the majority has never been less than that since, at any presidential election.

I. N. BASSETT.

#### THE CHICAGO, BURLINGTON & QUINCY RAILROAD.

As stated on another page, the first settlements of this region were made along the water-courses, and narrow belts of timber skirting the same, and to the fact of the existence of these natural features can be traced nearly every improvement in the whole State of Illinois prior to about 1850. Even as early as 1840 almost all the timber tracts were occupied by settlers, and it was then supposed by many, that further development of the country, if made at all, would be by a poorer class of herdsmen and other employes of the more fortunate inhabitants of better favored portions of the country. The Mississippi was of course the great thoroughfare of business and travel on the west, and the Illinois river on the east, and between these was a barren, trackless waste. Whole townships, and indeed almost whole counties, were without a single inhabitant, and though the soil was known to be excellent, everybody supposed that a century would elapse before it could be made available for any purpose. Indeed, it was difficult to see that with the lack of fuel and building timber it could ever be more than a grand herding ground for stock owned by those who had been so fortunate as to secure homes and strips of woodland along the courses of the streams of water.

It will not do to say that railroads, which eventually redeemed the best country that lay under the sun from absolute uselessness, had not been dreamed of, for from 1835 until 1840 they had been the dream of politicians, speculators and emigrants, but, as all supposed, they had all been awakened by a crash in financial matters in 1838-40 to the reality that such enterprises were a luxury not to be enjoyed by this portion of the world. For now they began to argue that the country was about settled up, and the small traffic that would come to such an enterprise would not be sufficient to sustain it, and that population must necessarily precede such improvement. The more modern idea of such roads as the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy is, to make the improvement first, and the population and the traffic immediately follow, and it is now well understood that nothing in the natural features of the country have ever tended so much to its development as the opening up of these means of travel and commerce.

At the risk of seeming to write in the interest of railroads, or for the purpose of manufacturing sentiment, we venture the remark that, as far as can now be seen, the opinions of the early settlers that the great prairies of this section, only for the advent of the railroad, were sound, and that improvement of Illinois to-day would have been but little in advance of what might have been seen in 1850. The water-courses had exerted all their influence in settling and developing the country, and as has been noted, that influence extended back but a few miles, and now the railroads begin and complete their work where the other left it unfinished.

It is interesting to note the changes that have come to this portion of the country since the advent of the railroad system which now prevails so universally, and while it is not claimed that railroads have done everything, it is doubtless true that much of the present prosperity and greatness of the country are due to their influence.

The railroads have brought better prices for grain, and reliable markets for it; consequently, these surplus profits in agriculture have brought to the farmer hundreds of comforts of which the pioneers knew but little by experience, and scarcely hoped to make their own. The railroads themselves have been a miracle of growth and improvement. A notable example of this is to be found in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, which passes through the entire length of both Mercer and Henderson counties. From a small, unimportant line of thirteen miles, a little more than twenty-five years ago, it has grown to include in its organization lines amounting to 3,500 miles, its facilities for transit in the meantime increasing in proportion.

The nucleus for this great enterprise was a line extending from



Aurora to a point now known as Turner Junction, thirteen miles nearly northeast. Aurora was a small village then, and the other end of the line was nothing, so it will be seen how insignificant this beginning was. However, a charter had been granted to what was known as the Aurora Branch company for a line from Aurora to Mendota, a distance of fifty-eight miles. These two lines were consolidated under the name of the Chicago & Aurora railroad, their connection with Chicago being by way of the Galena branch from Turner Junction. Another charter had been granted to what was styled the Central Military Tract road, extending from Mendota to Galesburg, in about the center of the northern part of the Bounty lands. On July 9, 1856, this last named, with the Chicago & Aurora road, consolidated under the name of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, thus giving a line of 151 miles. The company had taken a lease of the Peoria & Oquawka road and had advanced considerable money to aid in completing the line from Galesburg to Burlington. This gave them a through line to the last named place. The Peoria & Oquawka company failed to pay the indebtedness, the mortgage securing the money loaned was foreclosed, and thus another line was added to the already fast growing enterprise. The company then built a track of their own from Aurora to Chicago and made running arrangements with a line then in operation from Galesburg to Quincy, 100 miles distant. In 1864 the Quincy road came into possession of the company, thus making the three termini indicated in the name of the corporation. From that time to the present, branches have been built or bought in quick succession, until a map of the same looks like a picture of a great occiput, with its long arms stretching out in all directions over the vast plains of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. By the time this will be in print a direct line will have been completed to Denver in Colorado. When we take into consideration the wonderful growth of these states, and the great probability of still greater development, we are led to wonder what the future of this enterprise is to be.

The branch that most interests our readers, however, is that now known as the Galva and Keithsburg extension, from Galva to Gladstone. Originally this was three distinct enterprises, the main one from Galva to New Boston being called the American Central railroad. This road was built by the company named, but equipped by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and finally passed, with the short branches between Gladstone and Keithsburg and New Boston and Keithsburg, into the possession of the present owners.

The road enters Mercer county on the east at Windsor, and takes a nearly direct westerly course through the townships of Rivoli, Green,

Mercer and Millersburg, and then deflecting somewhat toward the south, it reaches the town of New Boston, in the southwest corner of the township by the same name. From thence it follows the course of the Mississippi river south, through the townships of Keithsburg, Bald Bluff and Oquawka, to Oquawka, finally reaching the main line at Gladstone. The main line passes through the townships of Biggsville, South Henderson and Warren, in a westerly direction. The direct branch from Burlington to Quincy passes through three townships of Henderson: Warren, Honey Creek and Dallas. The local enterprises complete and in prospect will be noticed on another page.

#### THE ROCK ISLAND AND MERCER COUNTY RAILROAD.

A line of railroad of a good deal of local importance is the one indicated by the above title, extending from Rock Island in a southerly direction to the town of Cable, in Richland township. The road is twenty-six miles in length, including a run of four miles of the Chicago & Rock Island road, from Milan to Rock Island. The line was projected by R. R. Cable (vice president of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific), P. L. and Ben. T. Cable, for the purpose of reaching the great coal fields of Richland township, and by these gentlemen built and made ready for the use of the coal company organized and owned by the same parties. The cost of the road, including grading, ties, iron, etc., was about \$18,000 per mile, or about \$300,000.

The coal company mentioned has furnished the rolling stock and put the line in operation, not only for carrying coal but for the transportation of merchandise and grain from and to the little towns that have since sprung up all along the line. Passenger coaches are attached to all the trains for the accommodation of the traveling public. The mails and express matter are also sent over this line, so that this enterprise has not only been the means of bringing the coal deposits to market, but has also given a considerable section of country through which it lies postal, commercial, telegraphic and traveling facilities.

The road passes through the town of Preemption, and nearly through that of Richland Grove, in this county, and is highly appreciated by the citizens of the northeastern part of the county.

The coal company, of which an extended notice is given in the history of Richland township, mines and transports from 90,000 to 100,000 tons of coal yearly.



## MERCER COUNTY SCIENTIFIC AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Mr. Tyler McWhorter and James H. Connell, Esq., furnish us data for the following :

This society was organized in Aledo February 19, 1878, under the name of Mercer County Scientific Association. At this meeting were present Tyler McWhorter, W. J. Pepper, J. H. Connell, I. N. Bassett, J. V. Frazier and W. A. Marsh. Mr. McWhorter presided, and Mr. Connell served as secretary. A constitution and by-laws were adopted; a number of invitations issued to others to attend the next meeting, and adjourned to March 5, 1878, to which time election of officers was postponed.

The objects and purposes of this organization may be briefly stated as follows :

Different individuals of our county were more or less interested in scientific investigation, but were isolated from each other, and had few opportunities for interviews, or to profit by each other's study, or line of thought.

The native flora and fauna of our county ; the carboniferous fossils, in connection with our seams of coal ; the implements and relics found in connection with the numerous ancient mounds in various parts of the county ; these, and other kindred subjects had elicited the attention of many of our citizens. Already many private collections of scientific interest had been made by different individuals of the county, and it was thought that persons whose minds are directed to scientific investigation should associate themselves together, so as to have an interchange of ideas, and enjoy the advantages of each other's research. It was believed that, with such an organization, a more general interest might be elicited to investigate and attain to a higher comprehension of nature.

While we have social organizations, with large expenditures, in support of our various churches, it would seem that we should also have some organizations to encourage thought and stimulate investigation in those important questions of science that are so directly related to the progress of the present age. It was for these reasons that many of our citizens felt that many advantages might be enjoyed by banding themselves together in such a society. Another purpose of the society was to make up a cabinet, or scientific collection, of such specimens relating to the natural sciences as might be contributed by its members, or others.

The meetings of the society are held quarterly, on the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December of each year.

On March 5, 1878, the adjourned meeting was held, and ten names

were added to the roll of members. Organization was completed by the election of the following officers: president, Dr. J. V. Frazier, of Viola; vice president, I. N. Bassett, Esq., of Aledo; secretary, J. H. Connell, of Aledo; treasurer, W. J. Pepper, of Keithsburg; trustees, six years, Tyler McWhorter, Aledo; four years, W. J. Pepper, Keithsburg; two years, J. C. Pepper, Aledo.

The presidents of the society to date, each holding one year, are as follows: Dr. J. V. Frazier, Viola; I. N. Bassett, Aledo; E. L. Larkin, New Windsor; Tyler McWhorter, Aledo; and John Geiger, now serving in that capacity.

James H. Connell was elected secretary at the first meeting, and was reelected annually until March, 1882, when Alex. McArthur was elected.

The cabinet of the society is very interesting, and includes several hundred specimens—geological, fossil, mineral, etc. The largest donations were made by the following persons: geological, etc., by Tyler McWhorter; shells, by W. A. Marsh; mineral, etc., by J. H. Connell; miscellaneous, by J. C. Pepper and W. J. Pepper; birds, by W. B. Crapnell.

The following papers have been read before the association: Climatic Changes and their Resultant Periods, Dr. J. V. Frazier; Metric System of Weights and Measures, J. R. Wylie; The Domain of Scientific Investigation and Thought, I. N. Bassett; The Mississippi River: Its Geological History, Tyler McWhorter; Future Punishment; from Ethnical Scripture, E. L. Larkin; Probable Origin of Life on the Globe, John Geiger; Shall we Impoverish the Fertility of the Earth, T. McWhorter; Utility of the Stars, W. J. Pepper; Antiquity of Man, T. McWhorter; Crystallography, J. R. Wylie; Electricity, R. H. Spicer, Sr.; Conchology, W. A. Marsh; Inclination of the Earth's Axis, T. McWhorter; Force, E. L. Larkin; Flesh Eating, John Geiger; Flesh Eating, Joseph McCoy; Population and its Distribution, C. V. Shove; Motion, E. L. Larkin; The Birds and Animals we are Losing and Gaining, W. B. Crapnell; Hygiene of Soil Waters, Dr. J. V. Frazier; Embryology, J. R. Wylie; Axial Rotation, John Geiger; People of North America, E. L. Larkin; Biology, T. McWhorter; The Surface or Economic of our Prairies, Graham Lee; Imperfections of Human Knowledge, Tyler McWhorter; The Planet Venus, J. C. Pepper; The Coming Man, Tyler McWhorter; Conscience Man's True Guide, J. Geiger; Progress in Science, I. N. Bassett; Some Observations on the Rocky Mountains, J. H. Connell; Silver Coinage, John Geiger; Protoplasm and Life, I. N. Bassett; Scientific Instruments, E. L. Larkin;



Improved Socialism, John Geiger ; Changes of Organic Life with the Advance of Civilization, Tyler McWhorter.

In December, 1879, the name was changed to the "Mercer County Scientific and Historical Society," the object being to gather up notes on the history of Mercer county. John Geiger, I. N. Bassett, Graham Lee and C. S. Richey were appointed a committee to receive all that had been prepared. May 1, 1880, the committee reported that they had received a considerable amount of historic matter from different sources, which was given into the custody of the society. In 1882 the society turned all papers in their hands over to Prof. H. H. Hill, to be embodied in this book.

The membership roll contained the following names: Tyler McWhorter, Aledo ; J. V. Frazier, Viola ; W. A. Marsh, Millersburg tp. ; I. N. Bassett, Aledo ; W. J. Pepper, Millersburg tp. ; J. H. Connell, now of Pueblo, Col. ; J. C. Pepper, J. R. Wylie, Aledo ; E. L. Larkin, New Windsor ; W. B. Crapnell, New Boston tp. (died 1881) ; C. A. Ballard, New Boston ; W. C. Galloway, Joseph McCoy, John Geiger, Aledo ; John B. Holland, Keithsburg ; Thos. Shaver, Tennessee Rolling Mills, Ky. ; Geo. P. Graham, Paola, Kan. ; F. D. Rathbun, New Windsor ; R. H. Spicer, Sr., Viola ; C. F. Durston, J. M. Wilson, W. A. Lorimer, B. F. Brock, Alex. Stephens, D. T. Hindman, Horace Bigelow, L. B. Morey, Alex. McArthur, Aledo ; C. S. Orth, William Griffin (died 1882), E. L. Marshall, Keithsburg ; C. V. Shove, E. L. McKinnie, G. L. F. Robinson, Viola ; L. C. Gilmore, E. B. David, Miss A. E. Frazier, B. C. Taliaferro, D. R. Johnston, Aledo ; P. F. Warner, Havana, Ills. ; Graham Lee, Hamlet ; C. H. Gran, Alpha, Henry county ; J. F. McCutcheon, Norwood ; A. P. Willits, T. B. Cabeen, Keithsburg. Honorary member : Lieut. F. S. Bassett, U. S. Navy.

Such is the history, objects and membership of this society, which has already accomplished a work of which its members may feel proud, and has but laid the foundation of a grand and most commendable effort in the advancement of scientific research. And from the progressive character of the men composing its membership we may safely predict for the society a glorious future, and a name that will be known wherever science is made a special study.

#### NOTES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF MERCER AND HENDERSON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS, BY WILLIAM A. MARSH.

*Palæontology.*—The principal geological formations that occur in Mercer and Henderson counties which contain fossils are, the coal measures and the St. Louis group, Keokuk limestone, Burlington lime-



JAMES M. EMERSON.  
(DECEASED)





stone, and Kinderhook group, of the lower carboniferous system. The number of species of fossil flora found within the limits of these two counties is very small compared with other sections, but our fossil fauna will compare favorably with any section of the state, at least as far as the number of species is concerned, although they are not found in as good a state of preservation as might be desired. The whole number of fossil species that have come under my observation, in collecting among the different formations of the two counties, is about 400 species, divided as follows: coal measure flora, twenty-five species; coal measure fauna, 250 species; lower carboniferous, 125 species. The most remarkable and interesting forms are the crinoiden of the lower carboniferous, and the different forms of the genus *Productus*, belonging to the Brachiopoda.

*Mammals*.—The mammalian fauna of these two counties is almost the exact counterpart of all prairie sections. The time was when the larger forms of life abounded; when the deer, elk, buffalo, beaver, etc., made the prairies their home. The coming of the white man, attended by all the circumstances of progress, has driven these larger forms from the country, and now the smaller kinds alone retain a footing. They are American buffalo, beaver, red deer, gray wolf, prairie wolf, gray fox, otter, mink, weasel, skunk, wild cat, opossum, raccoon, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, black squirrel, flying squirrel, chipmunk, gray prairie squirrel, striped prairie squirrel, woodchuck, striped badger, rabbit, brown rat (introduced), white-footed wood mouse, white-footed prairie mouse, long-tailed jumping mouse, prairie meadow mouse, wood meadow mouse, long-haired meadow mouse, shrew mole, star nose mole, muskrat, house mouse (introduced), long-eared bat.

The number of species of birds, as far as I have been able to identify them, will reach about 180 species, embracing forty-one families. This includes those that remain with us the year round, those that are known to visit us through the spring and summer season, and those that tarry with us a short time during their migrations through the country from north to south.

The number of fish species thus far identified as occurring in the Mississippi river, its lakes and sloughs, and the small streams flowing into it, through the counties of Mercer and Henderson, is about seventy-seven species. Besides the fish used for food, this list includes the dog fish, the eel, the gar pike, the alligator gar, the spoon-bill, the spotted sturgeon, and the leech lamprey.

The snakes are: blowing viper, hog-nosed snake, red-bellied water snake, Holbrook's water snake, ribbon snake, Faireye's garter snake,



racer, summer green snake, king snake, corn snake, spotted adder, ground snake, timber rattlesnake (now extinct), prairie rattlesnake.

The Batrachians are : frogs, four species ; tree frogs, three species ; toads, one species ; salamanders, seven species ; lizards, four species ; turtles, ten species.

The molluscan fauna of Mercer and Henderson numbers 137 acknowledged species. Seven years of careful study and collecting in this particular branch leads me to believe that very few, if any, new forms will be likely to be found. They may be classed as follows : unionidæ, sixty-eight species ; corbiculadæ, twelve species ; viviparidæ, seven species ; vulvatidæ, one species ; strepomatidæ, one species ; rissoidæ, six species ; helicidæ, twenty-five species ; limnaeidæ, fourteen species ; ancylinæ, three species. It will be observed that the per cent of land shells is very small in comparison to the water shells. The absence of timber, the frequent overflowing of our water-courses, and the great number of swine running in the timbered sections, has had a tendency to nearly destroy this interesting class of mollusks.

The flora of Mercer and Henderson counties presents a study of very great interest to the botanist. Over 800 species have been identified, including indigenous and introduced species, as existing in the two counties. The woody plants, including the trees, shrubs and woody climbers, number about 120 species. The filices or ferns, twelve species. The grasses, including the juncaceæ or rush family, and the cyperaceæ or sedge grass family, number 180 species. Among the true grasses may be found some of the most valuable and interesting species found in the United States, and a few of the most obnoxious kinds. It would be a pleasant task to present lists of some of the most interesting orders of our plants, but as the number is so great, it would be almost impossible to list them in a brief report like this.

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### NEW BOSTON TOWNSHIP.

The township of New Boston embraces congressional township 14 north, and ranges 5 and 6 west, extending to the Mississippi river. The eastern part is undulating and contains a depth and richness of soil unexcelled in the county. The western part of the township is level, containing a narrow strip of sandy soil, in some places almost destitute of vegetation ; between this strip and the undulating region of the east the bottom land is extremely fertile and produces heavy crops.

The minerals, as far as known, are limited in kind and quantity, being wholly comprised in a stone quarry at the mouth of the Edwards

river. The drainage is excellent. The swamp lands so common to some localities are almost wholly wanting here. The Edwards river flows through the township, entering on section 1 and passing out on section 33. In the western part are several small lakes, of which Bald Eagle, Eliza and Swan lakes are the principal ones. The township is well supplied with timber in the eastern part and along the river bottom, the kinds being oak, maple, walnut, sycamore, and similar deciduous trees.

The township has a somewhat interesting railroad history, to which we shall refer more fully farther on. The Galva and Keithsburg branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy enters the township on section 24 and takes a diagonal course to the town of New Boston, a branch running to Keithsburg from a point on section 27, thereby giving a southern outlet and southern connections.

This, in brief, is a description of the town to-day, with its happy, independent, self-reliant people. Let us turn back to earlier days and trace the work of the hardy pioneers, who bravely struggled to reclaim the land from its native wildness, and plant here the institutions of the more favored east.

To Mr. William Denison and his son John W. belong the honor of planting the first settlement in the township, as well as in the county. They were Pennsylvanians, and came directly from Wayne county, Indiana, having previously lived for a short time in Ohio. They settled near the site of the present town of New Boston in 1827, and there lived in close and friendly relations with the Indians who at that time frequented the place. The vicinity offered many attractions to the Indians in the shape of hunting and fishing; and, indeed, at the present time it has more than a local celebrity in this respect.

H. W. Denison, a son of John W. Denison, born in 1832, was the first white child born in Mercer county. He is still a resident of New Boston, as is also his mother.

Let the reader pause here a moment and call to aid his imagination in picturing a settlement of this kind. On the one hand a boundless waste of prairie, covered with tall waving grass, which sinks and rises with a billowy motion, as far as the eye can reach. On the other hand the great Father of Waters, spread out in silent majesty, or lashed to fury by the untrammelled winds which sometimes sweep over the plains from the west. Here was to be found the savage in his native wildness. Here he smoked his pipe of peace or hallooed his wild war-dance. And here was started the first settlement of what was to be, at a future time, one of the myriads of fair towns that dot the broad State of Illinois.

The elder Denison had several children besides John W., mention-



ed above. Among them were Erastus, James, Joseph, Ezra, Newton and Elmer. . The family of Denisons, individually and collectively, occupied the greater portion of the region bordering on the river, including what is now the town of New Boston.

During the Black Hawk war of 1832, the Denisons left the county, but returned after the close of hostilities. Their being enabled to leave the county uninjured was due wholly to the warning of friendly Indians. The first of these warnings were not heeded, but at last those Indians with whom they were friendly came and told them that, as they seemed determined to stay and be killed, it was thought best to let the friendly Indians kill them decently. The family concluded that they would take an excursion in preference to staying at home, even though the staying would secure "decent" killing by their friends. The story is told that, after they had left, their Indian friends gathered up all the articles that had been left in the hurry and excitement of the occasion and placed them in the deserted cabin, marking the spot with such signs as would deter other marauding parties from committing any depredations. These articles were found on the return of the family, all in good order and nothing missing. A detailed account of the dangers and narrow escapes is given elsewhere.

Mr. Denison's recollections of the manners, customs and traits of the Indians in this vicinity, are curious and interesting. Though exceedingly cruel after the actual commencement of hostilities, they invariably abstained from any preliminary bloodshedding. When Black Hawk was passing his warriors up the Mississippi, previous to the last campaign of 1832, he came ashore, stopped at Mr. Denison's house, partook of their hospitality, and guarded the house until the last canoe had passed up the river. They were capable of the strongest sentiments of friendship, and held in lasting remembrance any act of kindness, rewarding the same, sometimes, after the lapse of years. They were strictly honest with those whom they considered honest, and though the Denison family lived among them for years they never suffered a loss from theft or other depredation committed by them.

Immediately after the death of an Indian, the family and friends went into mourning for a length of time proportioned to the dignity of the deceased, which continued day and night until the appointed time had expired. When the sick became conscious of approaching death, they usually selected their own burial place, which was located generally on some commanding eminence, thus enabling the spirit to have a commanding view of the surrounding country, with its more or less busy scenes of warfare or friendly intercourse. In burying the dead, a small amount of food was deposited with the body to last the spirit a

year. This was repeated until the relation of body and spirit was supposed to be totally severed; usually till about the third year. A stranger was disposed of by being wrapped in bark and hoisted among the branches of some commanding tree. From this fact doubtless arose the supposition that this style was a mode of burial among some of the tribes.

Black Hawk is described as a short, thick-set individual, who was the war chief, while his associate, Keokuk, was a peace chief. Although knowing the superior power of the whites, he made war relying on the help of the Great Spirit to sustain the right. He was taught by bitter experience, as many another has been, the time when "right shall triumph over might" is still in the future.

From Mrs. Margaret Denison, widow of John W. Denison, who was one of the original settlers at the Upper Yellow Banks, we have derived the following information, here given almost in her own words:

William Denison, and his son John W. Denison, with their families, came from Connersville, Ind., to Springfield, Ill., in 1826. In 1827 both families came to this county, arriving on the 20th of April, and made settlement at New Boston. They were the first white settlers in Mercer county. A week afterward John Vannatta arrived and located his home on the present site of Keithsburg. His brother Benjamin came two or three years later to the same place. The Denisons pitched their home on the river bank, half a mile below New Boston, where they started and kept a wood yard for supplying steamboats. They lived opposite the old graveyard. William Denison made a claim in that place, and John Denison took the present site of New Boston. Until the Black Hawk war they planted their garden close to where Dr. Willits' house stands, in rear of the Union hotel. The soil was a rich mold on which vegetables flourished; but it was blown off by the winds, and is now only a bleak sand ridge.

The Indians called this locality "Upper Yellow Banks." From the time of their settlement here till the spring of 1831, the Denisons lived in perfect peace with the Sacs and Foxes. Only occasionally did a Winnebago Indian show himself in these parts. The men of this tribe were large, tall, broad-shouldered, and superior in stature to the Sacs and Foxes, and spoke a different dialect. The Indians dwelt here in great numbers.

In the spring of 1831 the friendly Indians, who belonged to Keokuk's band, told the whites at the Upper Yellow Banks that there was going to be war, and urged them to depart to a place of safety among their own people, or to go with them and they would secure them from harm. Keokuk was living on the Iowa river; he said he was going to



build a town, and tried to persuade them to come to his settlement, promising to give them full protection, but they declined to go, feeling that, if they must leave their homes, it would be better to be among their kindred race.

The only settlers at this place at that time were the Denisons, and Daniel S. Witter and wife, and his hired man, named Twist. A captain coming down the river from Rock Island brought word that an outbreak was imminent, and all these persons were taken on board his steamer and carried to Nauvoo. After a sojourn there of two months they returned, but found their corn, which was up large enough to be cultivated when they went away, all destroyed, and not an ear was raised that year. Witter and Twist never came back. The latter had taken a claim and was cutting wood.

Concerning the troubles of this year, it is recorded in the Atlas Map of Mercer county, that after the whites "had been moved to Fort Edwards, now Warsaw, the friendly or 'pet' Indians assembled on the deserted premises, gathered up all the articles of their friends that had been left in the hurry and excitement of the occasion, stored them safely away in the loft of the house, closed the doors securely, and put a mark upon them well understood by the tribes. When the family returned home not an article was missing."

Against this recreation of fancy stands the trustworthy statement of old Mother Denison, that they left behind a part of their movable effects, as dishes, books, soap, chairs, chickens, and that such goods as they could they buried; but the despoilers carried off everything. Her lady's saddle was found with the plush covering taken off and the skirts cut into strips. Mrs. Denison complained to Keokuk of the loss of this, and when he went to St. Louis, he bought another and gave her.

At that time there was not business enough on the upper Mississippi to call for a special class of boats. The furnishing of wood to these boats was a considerable business. About \$3 per cord was paid.

The Denisons all conversed readily in the Indian language, having learned it after their settlement on the river. The Indians could talk but little in English.

Early in 1832 a council of war was held at New Boston. This was attended by Black Hawk, Keokuk, and some 3,000 followers. Black Hawk came down the Mississippi, and Keokuk down the Iowa river, on which he was living. New Boston was a central point, and the general rendezvous on grave or mirthful occasions. The council was held on the site of the town, beneath some scattering trees. The Denisons were present and heard the speeches of the two chiefs. Keokuk spoke first. His counsel was pacific. He told his people that a war with the

whites would be wasteful, hopeless, disastrous; that they were as numerous as the trees of the Mississippi valley, and could not be conquered. Black Hawk sullenly closed his ears with his fingers, and refused to hear what was said. He followed in a speech for war. He said the whites had stolen his land; that his father was buried at Rock Island, and his desire was to be laid among his ancestors.

These two men were strikingly dissimilar in personal appearance. Keokuk was large, of fine person, noble bearing, neat in dress, and went appareled like a white man, in fine blue broadcloth. Black Hawk was a heavy set man, not tidy like Keokuk, and wrapped his muscular form in his blanket, though sometimes he was seen to wear a coat.

Once more the Denisons were urged by their red friends to abandon their home. They were told that war was decided upon, and that to remain was to court certain death. They were on familiar and friendly terms with the savages, and their experiences of the year before did not make them hasty subjects of fright. When they asked why the war was not begun when threatened the first time, the Indians replied that they were not ready then; that they submitted to the situation to gain time; but that they were now fully prepared for war.

The Denisons hesitated about departing three or four days, and all the while the Indians showed a truly anxious interest in their safety and did not relax their exertions to induce them to go away to a white settlement. Keokuk, who was employing all his influence to prevent his followers from joining the war party, promised them protection if they would come and live with him. Appearing still to be determined not to forsake their homes, an Indian calling himself Captain Pepo, who seemed to have a solemn concern about their respectable extermination, came to them and with all the fidelity of a friend urged them to go, telling them that the young warriors who would come would roughly insult and barbarously murder and mutilate them, and that to save them from so painful and humiliating treatment, if they would not leave for a place of safety, "he would come and kill them *decently*!" After this, discovering moccasin tracks among their garden-beds, they concluded that the savages were prowling around, and thought it no longer safe to tarry in the neighborhood. They were living about half a mile down the river, where the woodyard was, and opposite where the graveyard now is. Taking most of their goods, they began their removal one morning, and went down to Pence's Fort, which consisted of some block-houses, and was situated four miles northeast of Oquawka.

Having at the time nearly 150 cords of wood at the yard, the two sons of the senior Denison, William and Erastus, were left behind to



cord up what was not piled, and to sell as much as they could to the steamboats. In the turn that affairs took, this wood was all lost.

A Frenchman by the name of Pentacosa, who called himself Coty, had a trading house at New Boston, and that evening the young Denisons went up to stay with him. In the night the Indians surrounded the premises and assaulted the building; the three inmates escaped by the back way, and gliding swiftly but cautiously down to the edge of the river, followed along precipitately under the bank, the Indians coming behind and whooping with vengeance. The fleeing men waded the Edwards at the mouth, and then struck for Pope creek, at a point where it was spanned by a foot-log, five miles distant. At this point a dog in pursuit closed up with them and Erastus Denison shot him. The Indians were last heard here, about a quarter of a mile back, and it is supposed they threw up the chase at the creek. The party continued their flight apprehensive of pursuit until "Coty" gave out and was secreted by his companions in the tall grass, in a sink or basin. The two men now went forward as rapidly as the darkness of night would allow, and arrived at Pence's at two in the morning, having accomplished the flight of sixteen miles since nightfall. At daylight the men at the stockade turned out to go for the Frenchman, and when he had been safely brought in they went up the river together in boats to the Upper Yellow Banks, and brought away all his goods from the trading post. Two squaws were found sitting in the house, having been stationed there to take care of the place and prevent its being despoiled.

After peace was made and the families returned, the Indians affected to have much sport in telling the Denison boys that in their flight they made the brush crack as if they had been bucks.

Not being satisfied with their confinement at the fort, the Denisons, a week later, went to Monmouth to stay. John Denison bought a house and a small piece of ground, and lived there through the summer. In the fall they came back to New Boston in time to put up hay for winter. William Denison returned to his old place on the river, but John went back two miles, where he made a farm. Mrs. Denison had three small children, and that fall she stayed alone with the children in her house a week, while her husband went back to Monmouth to get his corn and potatoes. Mother Denison was a brave woman and felt no alarm, though she heard the guns of the Indian hunters as they were fowling, and her husband's absence was prolonged several days beyond expectation.

The same day that the Denisons left the Upper Yellow Banks, Benjamin Vannatta, who was living at Keithsburg, loaded up his goods

at night and drove out on the prairie and remained in a low place, going from there next day to the fort.

Just before hostilities ended a party of seven Indians penetrated the country as far as Little York, and creeping up on a young man named Martin, who was mowing on the prairie, all fired upon him at once and shot him dead. They afterward said that they could have killed many more, but being acquainted with them, and having been fed and warmed by them, they were deterred from taking their lives. Unfortunately, Martin was a stranger who had never had the privilege of bestowing a favor. A company of rangers was raised that summer at Monmouth, and this command scoured the country between Oquawka, New Boston and Monmouth. A detachment of these was sent out after this prowling band and pursued them so close that they threw away everything in their flight, and escaped across the Mississippi.

When Black Hawk returned from his tour to Washington, he had the candor to tell his people that Keokuk was right in his estimate of the strength and number of the whites, and assured them that instead of being as numerous as the trees of the Mississippi valley they were as numberless as the trees and the leaves together.

William Denison had a very handsome daughter by the name of Julia, about fifteen years old, for whom the savages conceived a great fancy and to buy whom they exhausted every means. Mother Denison cannot remember the offers that were made by her savage admirers, but thinks that they at one time brought thirty ponies. They came several times to urge a bargain. That young lady is now the wife of Judge Ephraim Gilmore, of Aledo.

Nancy Denison, daughter of John Denison (now Mrs. William Willett, of Keithsburg), was another white child whom the savages were bent on possessing, and several times attempted to kidnap. The squaws would pick her up and wrap her in a blanket, but before they could get away the vigilant watch dog would discover their movements, and assailing them furiously, compel them to leave her. They were often at the house, and by making much of her, and giving her presents, had artfully won her childish confidence so that she was greatly pleased at the prospect of going with them. She learned to converse in the Indian as early as in her own tongue.

All the Indians drank whisky. When they went on a spree two or more kept sober to take care of the others. When any got troublesome and ungovernable, these would bind them till they recovered themselves.

Mrs. Denison is living in New Boston at the age of eighty.

In 1833 Wm. Drury came to this vicinity and made a claim near



the bluffs. At the first glance he felt convinced he had found "God's country," and he has never felt that he made a mistake in so estimating it. At that time there were but four distinct white families in the township.

Very soon after this, as the richness of the soil became tested, settlers began to come in rapidly. At about the same time land speculators from the east also turned their attention to this locality. The inordinate cupidity of these speculators often involved them in bitter contests with the settlers. As soon as the lands were surveyed and came into market, the settlers, in order to compete more successfully with the speculators, were in the habit of forming a ring around the land office, and endeavoring to keep out the "land sharks," as they were called, by physical strength. Nearly all the land sold in this locality, was sold from the government land office in Galena. The settlers usually appointed some one person to attend the land sale and bid off the several lots upon which they had made claims. The settlements were made principally along the river, the settlement of the upland country being regarded as an absurdity.

In 1834 Wm. Wilson made a settlement. During this year the number of settlers increased so rapidly as to cause great inconvenience in some parts of the country on account of the great extent of territory embraced in the jurisdiction of Warren county.

In September of this year, 1834, the town of New Boston was laid out (the first of any in the county). The land, as has been previously stated, was owned originally by Wm. Denison. He sold out his claim, or two-thirds of it, to Elijah Iles, of Springfield, and Edward Burrall, of Massachusetts. An honor attaches to it of more than usual importance from the fact that the surveying was done by Abraham Lincoln, the Martyr President of the United States. The site possessed peculiar natural advantages, and had been known as the upper Yellow Banks, the Lower Yellow Banks being located at Oquawka. To say that site was more favorable for a city than any other point for miles either way is certainly no discredit to the larger cities that have since been founded and hold populations largely in excess of New Boston. Situated opposite the mouth of the Iowa river, which is a navigable stream for some distance; located on high banks, without the inconvenience of bluffs in the rear; with Sturgeon Bay as a safe and commodious harbor; a rich agricultural country surrounding it, and no large city within a great distance; what more natural than to suppose it simply a question of time when it should be *the* city of the west! The thoughtful reader will undoubtedly satisfy himself why these expectations were not fulfilled as he peruses the subsequent history.

In 1835 the legislature passed an act erecting the new county of Mercer, and appointing New Boston as the temporary county seat. By the provisions of the act an election was directed to be held on the first Monday in April, 1835, in the town of New Boston at the house of Eli Reynolds. Thirty seven votes were deposited for county officers.

S. V. Prentiss located here during this year, as did also Mr. Ed. Drury and M. L. Willits. They are all living in the township at present and have been since their settlement here.

About 1835 a school was organized at the bluff about four miles east of New Boston. This was also the first school-house in Mercer county. The first school teacher was the Hon. Geo. W. Julian, since that time almost countless numbers of teachers have been engaged in the work in the town ; but perhaps the most prominent and deserving of mention is the name of Simeon P. Smith. Hardly a man now living in the vicinity but knows personally or by hearsay of his good work as an educator. Of him Dr. Thomas Willits says : " Among the aims and interests of human life, opening wide the avenues to independent thought and efficient intellectuality is paramount, and he who has been successful as an educator, is most truly a benefactor.

Having lived long, and been an interested observer of human progress in many of its phases, I can most conscientiously say that no other instance has come under my notice in which so much was achieved in common schools in the same time (short or long) as was done by my friend Simeon L. Smith in the town of New Boston and vicinity (beginning about forty years since), in awakening the latent possibilities of the infant mind.

The causes and reasons for his singular and marked success in school were no doubt many ; perhaps some that were peculiar and purely intellectual.

But he seemed to form a clear and correct judgment quickly of the capacity of each pupil, and of their home discipline, and was so intensely earnest himself that his feeling and action seemed contagious. He seemed to know just what a pupil could do, or should do, and was careful to know that it was done, or to require a suitable reason why it was not. If one in a class failed, he seemed to know whether idleness or inability was the cause, and promptly used the appropriate remedy. Evenings, mornings, Saturdays ; indeed, any unoccupied time the class, or the pupil, or any number that he deemed required awakening aid, were called to the residence of some employer, his boarding place, or the school-house, where the appropriate exercises, instructions or questions were presented. Prompt and absolute obedience of every scholar seemed a prerequisite, and understanding every principle in the branches



taught himself, knew the cause of failure or embarrassment, and lifted or led the pupil so gently into the light that he was impressed that he had found it himself. Scholars thus energized went on and up to greater and more successful efforts, opening wider the way to greater attainments in the more advanced and progressive series of scholarly developements. Every pupil under his teaching for a few years is now easily distinguished from the mass in this, that they are good spellers, good readers, and prompt, ready and accurate mathematicians, all achieved by a thorough, clear, and logical mental analysis of the problem, ever making their own rules, and never committing those of another. Of his religious sentiments I can say that he was an admirer of puritanic rigidity in the observances of an ideal straight edge, as a guide in religious and moral duties. If not an apologist for its bigotry of the inspirational claim for or of the bible, he said or cared little, but ever observed, applauded and advocated the clearly marked moral duties as expressed by the life and precepts of Jesus, with little or no respect for the ceremonies and formalities of the churches, regarding them as figments of catholicity that the world would be the better for losing.

Johnson Noble settled in the township in this year, 1835. Mr. Ephraim Gilmore was the first assessor and treasurer, appointed April 13, 1835. He was also the first surveyor and first postmaster.

The following settlements were made in 1836. John W. Ditto, who settled on S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 27, having previously made the claim in March of the same year. His was the only house out on the prairie except Joseph Denison's on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34, which was built the same spring. John Denison was living in the timber out on the Edward's Flats, having settled there on his return after the Black Hawk war in the autumn of 1832. John Pratt, Milton L. Willits, Isaac Lutz, James M. Mannon, Gilbert Ives, and Harley Ives, also made settlements in this year.

During this year a somewhat animated discussion arose in regard to the removal of the county seat. New Boston being situated at the extreme west of the county lacked a central location, an item of great importance in the days of horseback conveyances, and this fact was strongly urged as sufficient grounds for the removal of the county offices to a more accessible point. Those who favored its retention did so on the grounds that as New Boston was *the* town of the county, and always destined to be, so far as could be ascertained at that time, nothing could be more appropriate than to let the county seat remain.

In 1837 the legislature enacted a law by which Wm. McMurty, of Knox county; Thomas Spragins, of Jo. Daviess; and John S. Stephenson, of Ogle, were appointed a commission to locate a permanent seat

of justice. The provisions of the act required that the proprietors of the place selected should donate to the county lots equal to at least twenty acres, the proceeds of the sale of which should be used in the erection of public buildings. The commissioners fixed the site at Millersburg on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3, T. 14, R. 4.

Dissatisfaction still existing, the question of its removal was agitated still further, until the legislature, in 1839, authorized an election to be held in April of that year, to decide its location by vote; providing, however, that, if it resulted in locating it at New Boston, the proprietors "should donate not less than two acres of land and the sum of four thousand dollars in money," the money to be paid in four semi-annual installments. The effort was unsuccessful. The matter did not stop; but, as the topic is a matter of county history, we will return to our settlements of the year 1836 and 1837.

Lots in New Boston were held at high figures in these earlier times, prices ranging from \$200 to \$700. The lot where the old "Drury Warehouse" stands brought \$900. James S. Thompson settled and commenced business in New Boston in 1836, and from that time until his death, 1868, was closely connected in public and private life with the welfare of the community. In 1837 John Roberts, J. C. Sloan, N. N. Larrance and John Davis settled in the township.

In 1838 Isaac Lutz came to this township, and began the erection of a grist mill on Edwards river, on section 1. This mill has been kept up ever since, and is still running and doing good work. It belongs to some of the heirs of Isaac Lutz.

Elias Pullen, E. A. Crapnell and Joseph Alyea, with their families, settled in the township in this year. Elias Pullen settled on section 9, E. A. Crapnell on section 14, and Joseph Alyea in town, which at that time contained twelve or fifteen buildings. This was four years after the survey and plat of the town was made; and, although the town was laid out, only a small portion had been subdivided into lots. This, together with the fact that the majority of the proprietors were non-residents and held their property at high figures, partially accounts for the slow growth of the town.

In 1839 Jacob Beard settled on section 9, and Charles and Christian Rader settled on section 27. The settlements up to this time had been located mostly along the rivers Mississippi and Edwards; but from this time forward the settlements increased rapidly in number and take a wider range.

In 1840 Dr. Mark Willits settled in New Boston, the first resident doctor of the place.

He is still living in the town at this date, April, 1882, and has had



a wide and extensive practice almost continually during his long sojourn in the county. 'Drs. Hereld, Shiner and Howey were early physicians.

Mr. M. Poffenbarger settled in the town in 1840.

In 1845 the first newspaper in the county was established at New Boston, under the name of the "New Boston Advertiser." The name and management were changed several times, being successively "The Yeoman of the Prairie Land," the "New Boston Broadhorn," "The Golden Age," "The New Boston Nonpareil," "The New Boston Reporter," and lastly, the "New Boston Herald," the last number of the latter being published in 1872, C. A. Ballard, editor.

The township was organized in 1852; and the first supervisor from New Boston was I. N. Bassett; the first town clerk, Thomas Alyea; the first justice, G. W. Warner.

The following have been supervisors for the township: I. N. Bassett, one year; Sidney Chidester, one year; Amos Prouty, one year; William Drury, one year; John Roberts, five years; D. J. Noble, two years; Thomas Martin, four years; Walter Pryne, one year; William A. Wilson, twelve years. Mr. Wilson is supervisor at the present time.

The following is a list of the town clerks: Thomas Alyea, one year; R. Thomas, one year; Isaiah Alyea, one year; G. B. Tyler, one year; Simeon Sheldon, one year; J. E. Griffin, six years; A. F. Waterman, two years; D. T. Hindman, one year; George Lytle, one year; C. A. Ballard, three years; R. S. Scudder, two years; T. H. Doughty, eight years.

The justices of the peace have been: G. W. Warner, sixteen years; J. C. Swafford, two years; Amos Prouty, fourteen years; John Sharp, four years; C. W. Bras, twelve years; W. C. Austin, eight years; John Roberts, four years.

The village of New Boston is situated on a part of sections 31 and 32. It received an addition, known as Turner's Addition, in 1856, and in 1859 was incorporated under a special charter, having at that time about 700 inhabitants.

At the breaking out of the war in 1861, New Boston responded promptly to the call, and was always ready to aid the cause with men or money. To say there were none who sympathized with the South, would, of course, be an exaggeration; but the town may justly feel proud of her war record. We give elsewhere a detailed history of company "G," 27th regiment. The whole interest of the town, during the four years of this bloody struggle, seemed centered in the welfare of her "boys in blue" and the success of the Union forces.

Shortly before the war, in May, 1859, the township held an election

to vote for or against a subscription of \$18,000 to aid in the construction of the Western Air Line railway. The bonds were voted, but the road was never completed. In June, 1868, another election was held to vote for or against a subscription of \$18,000 to aid in the construction of the American Central Railway Company. One hundred and eighty-four (184) votes were polled for the subscription and three (3) against. The township bonds were to run ten years, bearing ten per cent interest. In June, 1879, the unpaid bonds were refunded at a lower rate of interest, and there now remains but \$5,500 indebtedness against the township, a mere trifle when her magnificent resources are taken into consideration.

The village of New Boston voted bonds to the amount of \$30,000, running twenty years and bearing seven per cent interest, for the same purpose. All these bonds were voted with the understanding that the road was to be extended to Fort Wayne, thus making connections with the eastern seaboard lines, and westward to Council Bluffs. The reaction in railroad speculation set in before the road was completed, and the company soon found themselves in want of capital, being finally compelled to sell the road to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, by which company it is now owned and operated. Had the road been completed as projected, crossing the Mississippi at its present western terminus, there is hardly a doubt that New Boston would to-day have been one of the most thriving cities in the west. At the present time a new road is surveyed from Rock Island southward, crossing the Mississippi at or near New Boston, and making connections through to Kansas City. Should this road be completed, the future prospects of the town are indeed bright.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first school was held in a log cabin out at the bluff, and presided over by the Hon. George W. Julian, in 1834 or 1835. The township was finally divided into eight districts, each supporting school for six or more months each year. The only graded school is the New Boston public school, it being divided into five departments. The first school-house built in the city district still stands in a rather dilapidated condition on lot 1, block 3.

At the last census there were 517 school children in the township, district No. 5 furnishing 312.

The religious sentiment of the people is quite diversified, a large number being in opposition to the orthodox church. Of the three or more church organizations, but one, the Methodist, supports a resident pastor.



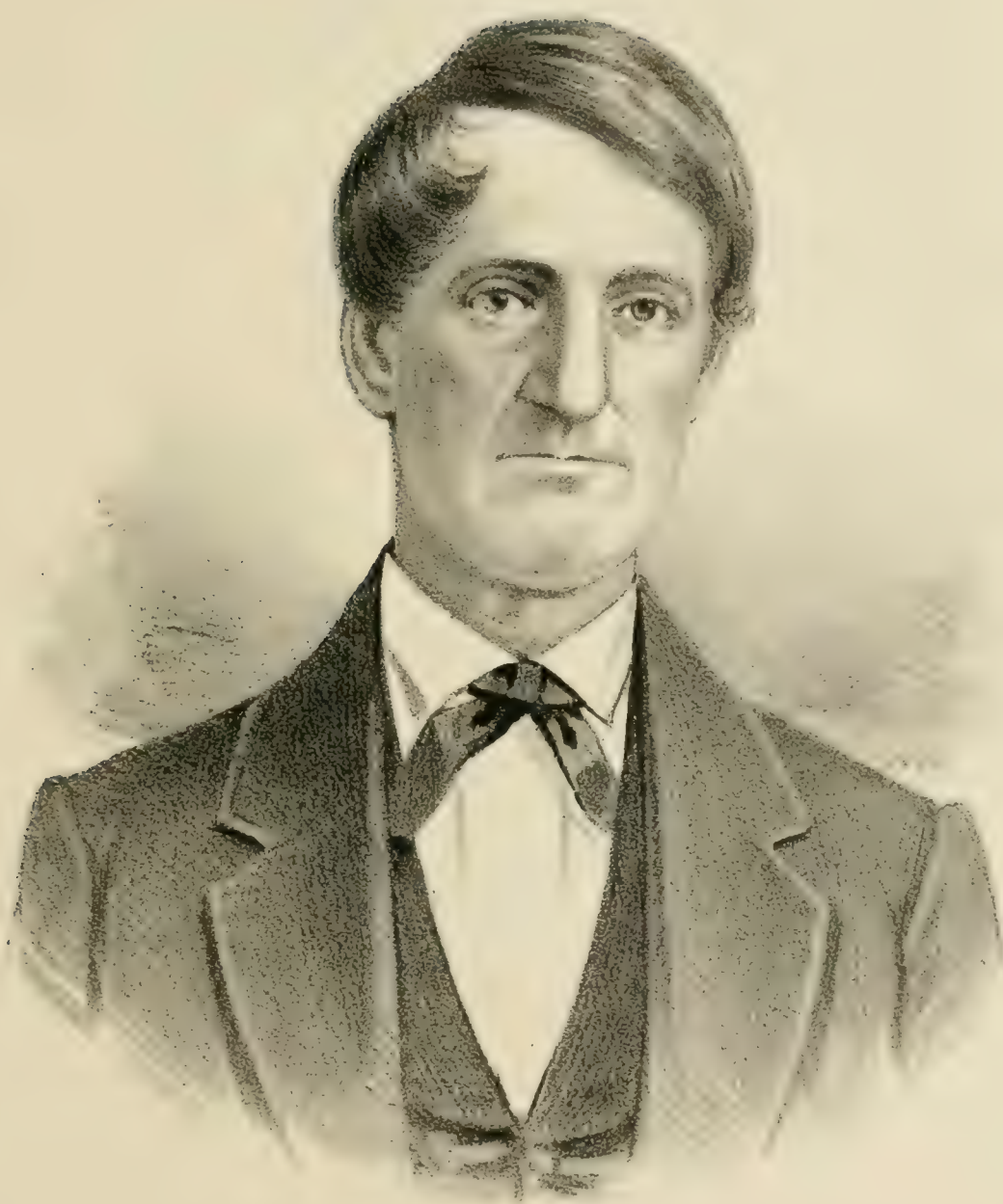
## THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOCIETY.

This society was organized in July, 1838, at the residence of Emily Burleigh, with the following members, viz: Joseph Alyea, Thorlea Alyea, Thomas Alyea, Mary Alyea, Dr. Edmond Harrell, — Butler, Emily Burleigh—7. New Boston at that time was in what was called the Mercer Mission. There were so many appointments that the preacher was compelled to preach almost daily, having but two or three rest days in a month.

The first resident preacher was George Smith, who was pastor over the society. The first meetings of the class were held at the residence of Emily Burleigh, but after Joseph Alyea had built his house in the town of New Boston, the meetings were moved to that point. Mr. Smith remained with the church but one year, and but little is remembered concerning him. Henry Summers was the presiding elder at the time of organization. The next year Thomas M. Kirkpatrick was the preacher in charge. This was about the year 1839. The preacher in those times had to be economical. He was allowed for that year, \$75 for table expenses, and \$100 salary, and a trifle for traveling expenses. He also remained a year, and accomplished a good work. He was followed by Brothers McMurtry, Wilson and Burr. Brothers Doughty and Ross at this time were local preachers, and as the circuit was very large, most of the work devolved upon them.

In 1866 the society built the parsonage on lots 7, 8 and 9, block 4, in Thompson's addition. It cost about \$1,500. The church building, in which the congregation has since worshiped, was erected in 1876, on lots 2, 3 and 4, block 13, in Thompson's addition. At the time of its erection it was the best in the county, and it still remains one of the best. Its cost was nearly \$6,000. The present board of trustees consists of T. H. Bras, J. T. Bell, E. Stevens, John Stevens, W. A. Wilson, Eli Craft and Thomas Alyea. The last named has been trustee, with the exception of one year, since 1845, and class leader thirty-four years. Three of the members of the first class, Emily Burleigh, Mary Willits and Thomas Alyea, are yet alive and members of the church, having been engaged in the good work forty-four years.

The present pastor of the church is Rev. G. B. Snedecker. The church, like most organizations of such long existence, has had its ups and downs, sometimes in the valley of humiliation and sometimes on the mountain's top, as on the mount of transfiguration; but always has its course been forward, and the good it has accomplished cannot be compared with anything in this world. Only eternity will reveal the amount of treasure gathered on earth and stored in the Master's gran-



HON, FREDERICK FRICK.  
(DECEASED)





eries above. [To Mr. Thomas Alyea we are indebted for the notes from which the foregoing has been written.—Ed.]

#### BAPTIST SOCIETY.

The Baptist society was organized in 1844 by Elder Hovey, with the following members, viz: William Denison and wife, James Denison and wife, Harrison Smith and wife, M. Poffenbarger and wife, E. A. Crapnell and wife, William Crapnell, William Noble and wife, Mr. and Mrs. McChesney, and Miss Williamson. In 1845 a church building was commenced on lot 5, block 13, and completed in 1848.

Elder Hovey is described as a man of great mental powers, and one thoroughly in earnest in his work. Although a man well advanced in years at the time he began his labors in the place, he remained as resident pastor for five years after its organization.

The building being situated on sandy foundation, was at length completely undermined by the action of the wind, and fell down about 1859. The last resident pastor was Elder Brimhall, who remained a year or two. The society has had no resident pastor since 1851, but has kept up the organization, and also a Sunday school, holding meetings at present in the town hall. It is hoped at some future time to see the society in a flourishing condition.

#### PRESBYTERIAN SOCIETY.

This society was organized in February, 1857, with the following members, viz: Mrs. Eva Nevius, Mrs. Joseph Kane, Mrs. M. J. Edwards, Mrs. Sarah Poffenbarger, Mrs. M. J. McLaughlin, Mr. G. W. Crabb. The first and only church building the society has had was begun about 1868. It is a large, commodious structure, and cost, when completed, \$6,620.17. The first pastor was Rev. S. G. Hair. The church has had no resident pastor for some years, the last one being the Rev. William Gay.

At the present writing, no meetings are held, but the society still keeps up its organization, and the few members left hope at some future time to see the church resume its old position.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD-FELLOWS.

In the latter part of the year 1855 a few members of the society of Odd-Fellows determined to establish a working lodge of the order in New Boston, and the following facts have been presented by M. Chamberlin, D.D.G.M.: The mystic number (five) made application for a dispensation. The Grand Master, by authority of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge of Illinois, issued a charter dated October 12, A.D.



1855, granting the dispensation. Monday evening, November 20, A.D. 1855, a meeting was held with District Deputy Grand Master Kelley in the chair, Past Grand Sweeny acting as grand marshal. By order of Grand Master Kelley, the grand marshal presented Charles H. Bell, M. M. Prentiss, John L. Hartson, Mark J. O'Brien and W. T. Power, who were duly obligated, and the grand master declared the lodge duly instituted under the name and title of "New Boston Lodge, No. 188, I.O.O.F.

After election and installment of officers, Brothers J. C. Bell and Daniel Hines were admitted by card, H. W. Denison and B. Milliken were initiated, and J. S. Thompson petitioned for membership. The meeting was regularly held on Monday evening of each week.

During the late rebellion the membership was reduced very nearly to the magic number, several brothers being enlisted as soldiers. The form of one now lies moldering away to kindred dust in southern soil—a tear to his memory. All credit is due to the few members who held their meetings, paid the capitation tax, and held their representation in the Grand Lodge. Several lodges in the state became defunct during the war.

After peace was again restored No. 188 increased in membership, and in October, 1865, the brothers were very arduous in their endeavors to secure a home for themselves. Cheerfully each brother donated to the building fund, and on the evening of May 21, 1866, the lodge met in their new hall, size 27x40 feet, lodge room carpeted and well furnished, and no one regrets the extra effort to secure a home, but with honest pride they can feel that they are beneath "the shadow of their own vine." The membership enrolled from organization up to April 1, 1882, is 178. The number of brothers buried by the lodge has been nine. The amount of relief paid, \$1,456.40 (this amount was paid by the lodge and the members by individual donation). Charity abideth in the heart of every good and true Odd-Fellow. It is within the knowledge of members of our order that the relief extended by them, under their teachings, has been the means, under providence, of bringing within the church many who to-day would have been aliens from the household of faith. Many of the brothers cheerfully donated in honor to the Wiley monument fund; also to the Lincoln monument fund, not forgetting our worthy and honorable G.R.S.; to his memory, we have a name in the Ridgley Monument Fund. Of the members at the organization of our lodge, only one, Brother Daniel Hines, now holds a membership.

Connected with the order is the Rebekah Degree. This degree associates the wives of Odd-Fellows with them in the high and

important work of "visiting the sick, relieving the distressed, burying the dead, and educating the orphan."

#### ARCHER ENCAMPMENT No. 70, I.O.O.F.

This is the home of the patriarch, the evergreen retreat of Odd-Fellowship, supported by the three pillars of Faith, Hope and Charity, and here we have the tables of law, likewise the lesson as taught in the golden rule. A weary pilgrim can here find rest, eat at our table and drink of our pure water. Hospitality to the stranger is a pure principle within the heart of every true patriarch encampment.

No. 70 was instituted December, 1866. The number of patriarchs enrolled up to April 1, 1882, was eighty-two. Several of the patriarchs instituted a new encampment, others changed their residence, and like our subordinate lodge, the time came when there were but one or two more members than the original number; but like the ancient Patriarch Abraham, the father of the faithful, our trust was in God, and to-day our tent is enlarged for the increase of membership.

#### ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

A dispensation and charter were issued to New Boston Lodge No. 59, in the latter part of 1848. The history from that time to 1853 is somewhat obscure, owing to the fact that in 1851 the records were burned; also, all books, papers, furniture, etc.

In 1852 a new dispensation was granted, and the following officers duly installed: John E. Willits, W.M.; George Ralston, S.W.; William Wilson, Jr., J.W.; Elias Willits, Treas.; Daniel Winslow, Sec.; E. J. Denison, S.D.; M. Poffenbarger, J.D.; Josiah Marfield, Tyler. In October, 1853, a new charter was issued and the following named individuals duly elected and installed as officers, viz: J. E. Denison, W.M.; E. Harrell, S.W.; A. Gingles, J.W.; R. Thomas, Treas.; G. W. Warner, Sec.; Elias Willits, S.D.; John Hoover, J.D.; Josiah Maxfield, Tyler.

The lodge has had a prosperous existence, and to-day is one of the strongest and most efficient in the state. The misfortune of losing the records by fire is more to be deplored, from the fact that the Grand Lodge of the state has also lost the records covering about the same facts.

The lodge has always been noted for its activity, and during the somewhat lengthy period of its existence has had no serious dissensions.

Something over 200 members have been admitted since the re-organization, and at present the membership is sixty-seven, with the following corps of officers: George Lytle, W.M.; Ed. L. Willits,



S.W. ; A. Imber, J.W. ; John Fry, Treas. ; W. C. Austin, Sec. ; J. J. Mason, S.D. ; N. W. Gibson, J.D. ; S. Swartwout, Tyler.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

HENRY W. DENISON was born in Mercer county, Illinois, March 16, 1832, being the first white child born in the county. His father, John W., together with his grandfather, William, formed the first settlement in the county, which was in the year 1827. He is the youngest child of John W. and Margaret (Swafford) Denison. His folks came overland with teams from Wayne county, Indiana, with Indians on all sides of them, reaching Mercer county without losing any of their family. They ever afterward lived on friendly terms with the Indians. One of the Indian warriors once remarked that if they killed them they would do it easy, which meant that they would never do anything more than whip them. He has been mostly engaged in farming and stock-raising. His chances for obtaining an education were limited to what he could obtain from Simeon P. Smith, who taught his first school in Henry's father's kitchen. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows since the first organization of that society in New Boston. He was either the first or second one taken into the lodge. He does not know whether he or B. Milliken, of Viola, was first, as they both came in at the first meeting. He has held all the offices in his lodge at various times. He was always a democrat until 1872. From that time to the present he has been a "greenbacker." He was married to Miss Turana C. Moore, daughter of John S. and Hannah Moore. Mrs. Denison was born February 17th, 1844. They have had six children, in the following order: Carrie (dead), Sally (married to Herbert Good), Alice (married to John Fuller), Maggie (dead), Willie (dead), and Freddie.

STANTON V. PRENTISS, farmer and stock raiser, was born in Meigs county, Ohio, May 10, 1826, and is the fifth child of Stanton and Susannah (Brookheart) Prentiss. His parents came west and settled at Warsaw, in Hancock county, where they remained until 1833. While living at that point, they were often compelled to leave their farm, and flee to Fort Edwards for safety from the Indians, as this was at the time when Black Hawk was making his raids up and down the Mississippi. In 1833 they came to Mercer county, where they have lived ever since, with the exception of a short time in Rock Island county, and two years spent in California. He has always been engaged in farming and raising stock, the latter very extensively. During the period between 1852 and 1857, he also ran a dry goods and grocery store. His means of attaining an education were very limited; however, he

managed to get a common school education between the intervals of farming. He owns 1,900 acres of land on Bay Island, all in one body and under fence, forming the largest pasture in the county, and the largest body owned by any one person. In politics he has always been a republican. He was married to Miss Hannah E. Creveston in May, 1865. They have two children: Park and Don. They are both living and at home with their parents. Mr. Prentiss' mother died in 1852 at New Boston, and his father in 1875.

WILLIAM DRURY, the subject of this sketch, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, September 17, 1809, and removed to Wayne county in 1811, with his parents, where Mr. Drury remained until he attained the age of manhood. The family were subject to all the privations of pioneer life as well as the alarms of savage warfare, and during the troubles in 1812 they often had to retreat to the block-houses for protection. Mr. Drury's education was limited to a common school, but he attained education enough to teach several terms of school before he came west. In 1833 Mr. Drury came to Illinois to look at the country, and for the first time saw real prairie land—quite a curiosity to one who has been reared in a wooded country. Mr. Drury determined to make this his home, made a selection, and in 1834 returned and made a claim, and settled down at the foot of the bluffs, near where he now resides. Through his influence several families came with him. So disgusted with things were they, that they threatened a dissolution of friendship with him if he did not desist in speaking in praise of the country. In 1840 Mr. Drury returned to Indiana, and was married, July 1, to Miss Vashiti Lewis, daughter of Caleb and Polly (Willits) Lewis. Mrs. Drury's father served as a member of the legislature a number of times. Immediately after the organization of Mercer county in 1835, Mr. Drury was elected to fill the office of county recorder a number of consecutive years. In 1836 he was elected county clerk, in conjunction with the former office. While holding these offices Mr. Drury furnished all his own stationery and met his office expenses out of his own private means. In 1836 he commenced a small trade in dry goods and groceries in partnership with Levi Willits, under the firm name of Drury & Willits. They furnished the people with all necessities that were required. They bought pork, grain and other products, and shipped them to St. Louis. They did the first pork packing in the county. They continued business until 1848, when they sold out to Courtney Drury and James S. Thompson, who formed a partnership under the name of Thompson & Drury. Mr. Drury spent about a year, after the sale of his interest, in settling up his business, when, in 1850, he started a small cash store, which he conducted until 1853,



when, on account of failing health, he sold out his interest, and has since given his attention to the management of his large estate, and to the importation and raising of fine stock, and the banking business. In 1871, in partnership with other wealthy men of the county, he assisted in organizing a Farmer's National Bank, at Keithsburg, of which he is a large stockholder and president. Mr. Drury says he has made it a practice all his life, that at the end of each year his income shall be greater than his expenses. He thinks this accounts for his large estate, and not to any mental gift. This he would recommend to all young men starting in life. Mr. Drury was among the first settlers of the county. He was well acquainted with Black Hawk and Keokuk, the two noted Indian chiefs.

COURTNEY DRURY was born in Wayne county, Indiana, November 23, 1820. He came to Mercer county, Illinois, with William Willits and family, in the fall of 1834. He remained with them for some time, and then sold goods for the firm of Drury & Willits. In 1842 he returned to his old home in Indiana, and went to school that fall and winter. He was married April 12, 1842, to Ruth Willits, and removed to Mercer county, Illinois, in the fall of the same year. That winter he bought eighty acres of land, partly improved. He sold his farm in the winter of 1845, and the following spring moved to the village of New Boston. Mr. Drury lost his wife February, 1847. He then returned to the State of Indiana, and spent the most of that summer there; then returned to New Boston, and, with James S. Thompson, purchased the mercantile establishment of Drury & Willits. The new firm conducted the trade of this house for eight years, at the end of which time they sold out, and Mr. Drury bought land near the village of New Boston, which he improved, and has engaged in farming and stock raising ever since. Mr. Drury has made a specialty of breeding fine horses, and has had some of the best stock ever kept or owned in Mercer county. He has a passion for a fine horse, and gratifies it.

WILLIAM A. WILSON, farmer, was born in Shelby county, Indiana, August 18, 1831. The family removed to Mercer county in the fall of 1834, and settled in Eliza township. Mr. Wilson's education was limited to a common school, as in those early times the advantages offered were few and rude; however, he acquired considerable of a business education, especially in arithmetic, as that was a favorite study of his. When twenty-two years of age he commenced farming for himself on a small scale. His father wanted him to take a horse when starting out, but he refused to do so; but by persuasion he accepted a ten dollar bill. He rented three years, when he found he had money enough to buy eighty acres of land lying in New Boston

township. He lived with his brother-in-law, Richard Shields, and tilled his small farm until 1857, when he was married to Miss Kate Woodward, daughter of Joel and Keziah Woodward. A year after his marriage he sold his farm for \$2,500, and bought another in Mercer township for \$3,500, where he lived until 1861. Mr. Wilson has always dealt considerably in live stock while farming. In 1861, in response to the country's call for troops, Mr. Wilson enlisted in the 102d Vol. Inf., and was elected second lieutenant of Company K, and before going into active service was promoted to first lieutenant. His first engagement with the enemy was at Gallatin, Tennessee, after which he was elected captain of his company by a unanimous vote. Returning home from the war in 1864, he sold his farm in Mercer township for \$7,000, and again bought a farm of 120 acres in New Boston township, which he has increased to 420 acres in New Boston township, and 402 acres in Eliza. They have had eleven children: Jay, Ed., Dick, Ressa, Gen. Phil. Sheridan, John S., Harvey, Louie, Grace, Bert. M. and Frank M. Grace and Louie are deceased. The rest are in good health and at home with their parents. Mr. Wilson's mother still survives at the age of eighty-seven, and is in good health.

D. J. NOBLE is the ninth child of a family of twelve children. He was born May 1, 1818, in Fayette county, Indiana. His parents, Lewis and Elizabeth (Burgess) Noble, came to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1835, and settled on Sec. 16, in New Boston township, where they lived until their death. His father gave D. J. seventy acres of Sec. 16, and to this he added the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 22 and the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21. He has a large and commodious residence and is comfortably situated. Besides making a competency for himself he has helped each of his sons to a good home. He has the benefits of only a common school education, owing to the many disadvantages afforded in youth. He has been engaged in farming from boyhood up. He has always taken an active part in temperance, and has been a member of the Methodist church since 1840. He has held all the offices in his church at various times. In politics he has always been a republican. He was married July 5, 1840, to Miss Sally Rader, daughter of Abraham and Catharine Rader. She was born March 4, 1818. They have had ten children, nine of whom are living: Melissa, married to Frederick Fleming; John N., married to Mary Hill, and lives in Dakota; Leroy, married to Miss Rachel Hollingsworth; David L., dead; Harvey, married to Miss Luella Bowden; Nathan, married to Miss Alida Pryne; Sarah E., married to J. A. Goding; Dora, married to Melvill Danford; Robert, married to Miss Iola Hollingsworth, and James, who lives at home with his parents.



MILTON L. WILLITS, farmer, son of Reuben and Mary Willits, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, November 13, 1826. He came west with his grandfather, Isaac Willits, in the spring of 1836, and settled in New Boston township, where he has lived ever since, with the exception of three years spent in California. He crossed the plains in the summer of 1850, and returned in the spring of 1853 to New Boston, and started a lumber yard in partnership with Anderson Kirlin. They continued business until fall, when they dissolved, and Mr. Willits started a grocery store, which he continued till the spring of 1854, when he traded his grocery in part payment on seventy-six acres of land five miles northeast of New Boston, where he has been engaged in farming ever since. He was married October 25, 1854, to Miss Sarah J. Kirlin. They have had ten children: Horace G., born July 31, 1855; Mary L., December 23, 1856; Homer C., January 8, 1858; Lavina H., March 25, 1859; Elias M., December 13, 1860; William R., September 23, 1862; Minnie D., March 3, 1864; Frederick, June 22, 1866; Ruth, November 6, 1867; Sarah J., February 8, 1869. His wife died February 13, 1869; Mary L., October 31, 1857; Sarah J., March 17, 1869; Ruth, August 26, 1869; Frederick, January 5, 1873; William R., October 25, 1879. His oldest son, Horace G., married Miss Ida McGrew; Clinton, to Miss Adda Kiddoo; Lavina, to Levi Lewis. The other two remain at home with their father. Mr. Willits' education was limited in youth but improved by study in later life. He was one of the pupils of Simeon P. Smith, one of the first and best teachers of the county. His early youth was spent in farming until eighteen years of age, when he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for six years. He has always been an active temperance man. In politics he is a republican. He has at present 513 acres of Mercer county's best land situated in New Boston township.

We cannot expect in a short sketch to do justice to one who has resided in the county near forty six years, but glean a few facts in which the readers of this work will feel a deep interest. Such a person is JAMES M. MANNON, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, September 16, 1823. He resided in his native state until thirteen years of age and then came west to Mercer county, and with his parents settled in Eliza township, where he lived until he attained the days of manhood. He took such chances as were offered in those early times for acquiring a common school education. By much reading and general study he has become well informed on all the leading questions of the day. April 6, 1849, he was married to Miss Rebecca daughter of Patrick Shirkey. After being married some nine years, his companion was called away to

the silent tomb, September 5, 1857. He married his present wife, Sarah J. Moore, January 6, 1859. She is a daughter of George and Jemima Moore, of New Boston township. Their children are Bertha B., George M., James M., Levi E., and Charles N. Mrs. Mannon's grandfather, Robert Moore, served in the war of 1776—and he and his two sons, Thomas and James, served in the war of 1812. Colonel Mannon started out in life as tiller of the soil which business he followed some fifteen years, when he was elected sheriff of Mercer county on the republican ticket. In 1858, after serving his term as sheriff, he was elected circuit clerk and county recorder, which positions he held for two years. In response to the call of the government for troops to put down the rebellion of the southern states, he enlisted in the 102d Ill. Vol. Inf., and was elected captain of company K, afterward major, and later, lieutenant colonel. He was in all of the fighting in Sherman's march to the sea coast, until the siege of Atlanta, when pressed by home interests he resigned and came home. Soon after joining his family he commenced mercantile business in New Boston in partnership with Anthony Burdick under the firm name of Burdick and Mannon. They did a large business for some three years when Mr. Mannon purchased the interest of Mr. Burdick and continued the business two years longer. He then sold off his stock of goods and bought a farm five miles northeast of New Boston, where he resides at present, comfortably situated. He commenced his business life with only eighty dollars. Mr. Mannon has always been an active republican and taken considerable interest in advocating its principles, and carrying into effect the doctrines advocated by that party.

JOHN PRATT, butcher, was born in Union county, Indiana, in 1829. He is the oldest son of Regin and Mary (Long) Pratt. His parents came to Mercer county in 1836, and are therefore among the earliest settlers of the county. He was engaged in farming and carpentering until 1876, since which time he has been engaged in the butcher's trade. In 1869 he joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which body he has been a member ever since. He has held numerous offices in his lodge at various times. In politics he is a democrat. His father lived in Mercer county until June 6, 1880, when he was called away to a better land. His mother is still living at the age of seventy-five, and maintains good health.

Of the representative men of Mercer county the name of none occupies a more honorable place in the list than that of DR. THOMAS WILLITS, of New Boston. He was a pioneer in his profession as well as a pioneer settler, and has been a practitioner fifty-six years. His nativity was in Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1805. It was there



his parents, James and Amy (Allison) Willits, who had emigrated from Pennsylvania, were married. At the age of twenty he started out from home with the design of going to St. Louis, but stopped at Montezuma, Parke county, Indiana, where he began the practice of medicine. In three or four years he returned to his father's home, which had meantime been removed to Richmond, Indiana. He remained there till 1837, and then came west and settled in Warren, now Henderson, county, this state, on the line between that and Mercer. There he entered 500 acres of land, which property is now known as the Mickey farm. Having enclosed a large tract, he gave his attention for a few years to raising stock for market; but after hauling to New Boston he could obtain only \$1.50 per hundred for the hind quarters of neat animals and \$1 for fore quarters, while pork brought but \$1.25, all in store pay, and corn could not be sold at any price. Not pleased with this state of things, in 1840 he decided to quit farming, and moved to New Boston and continued his practice. In 1850 he was elected a representative to the legislature from Mercer county and served one term. While a member of that body the charter for the Illinois Central railroad was passed, and he made a strenuous but futile effort to fix the percentage which the company should be obliged to pay into the state treasury at ten per cent of their gross earnings, instead of seven. The doctor voted first for president for John Quincy Adams, but fell into line with the opposite party in the Jackson campaign of 1828, and since that time has been an old school democrat. In controversy he has upheld the principles of his party, but never with hope of office or aspiration for it. With the exception of a division of the Sons of Temperance, which he organized in New Boston, he has not been connected with any of the secret orders which are now so common. To the extent that his example could give force to his convictions, he has encouraged the temperance cause, and under no circumstances could he ever have fallen to such depths of humiliation as to countenance or tolerate drunkenness or any patronage of the rum traffic. Dr. Willits was married in early life to Mrs. Catherine Libby, formerly Miss Ainsworth, and five children were the fruits of this union. The eldest, Elmira, died in infancy; Leroy lives in New Boston township; Viola, who was the wife of Russell Scudder, died over twenty years ago; Celeste is now Mrs. William A. Anderson, of Chicago; and Kate is the wife of Thomas Manning of the same city. We regret our inability to give a more extended notice of one who has figured so largely in the useful affairs of this locality, and who, by universal consent, has been of so much service and benefit to the public at large as Dr. Willits. A man of liberal education and correct understanding, whose

knowledge covers a wide range. Mercer county has never had a better type of the old school practitioner and gentleman than he. As a conversationalist he is fluent, entertaining and instructive, with pleasing powers of description.

JACOB H. SWOFFORD was born in Henry county, Indiana, April 8, 1829. His parents were born in North Carolina. He came to Mercer county, Illinois, August 10, 1837. He was a common laborer for a time, and then learned the printing business, which he followed for ten years. Since leaving off the printing business he has engaged in various avocations. He was married November 16, 1854, to Annie, daughter of John and Mary Shuff. They are the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are living. The family have resided in the village of New Boston for many years.

HARLEY IVES, farmer, was born in Connecticut, January 15, 1803. He is the third child of Caleb and Sarah (Booth) Ives. He came overland, and settled near Oquawka, in Henderson county, in 1836, where he lived two years, when he moved to Mercer county, and settled one mile east of New Boston, where he has lived ever since. During the early part of his life he was engaged in farming, and working at the cooper trade, being the first cooper in the county. In 1827 he was married to Miss Ruth Ives, daughter of Gideon and Charlotte (Hall) Ives. They have had five children born to them : Gilbert H., who is married to Miss Mary A Scudder, a daughter of Ennis Scudder ; Martha W., dead ; Gideon, at home with his parents ; Emery K., married to Miss Mary E. Hartsock ; Caroline, married to John W. Histed. Mrs. Ives has always been a member of the Baptist church. Mr. Ives has always been an active temperance man. In politics he is a democrat. At present, Mr. Ives is seventy-nine years of age and in splendid health and very active. Financially he is in good circumstances.

THOMAS ALYEA, druggist, was born at Miamitown, Ohio, September 21, 1821. His father, Joseph Alyea, from New Jersey, was three times married. By his first wife he had two children ; by his second, Margaret Love, mother of our subject, four were born ; and by the last, eight : three sons and five daughters. The family moved from Mr. Alyea's birthplace to Fairfield, Franklin county, Indiana, where his mother died when he was eight years old. In 1838 a second removal brought them to New Boston where Mr. Alyea has resided continuously until the present time. In 1845 he went to Mount Morris Seminary in Ogle county and attended school there one year. He was the second vender of drugs in New Boston, and opened in 1853 the first exclusive drug store, which he has conducted since. From 1847 to 1853 he was selling dry goods, and from 1854 till now he has been



engaged in the ice business. On the 28th of June, 1849, he was married to Miss Sarah A., daughter of John and Amelia C. Signor. The same year he was elected county surveyor, and held that office one term of two years. He still devotes a little attention to surveying, and has in his possession the old field notes procured by Judge Gilmore nearly fifty years ago. He was the first town clerk after the adoption of township organization, and has filled the same position in the town of New Boston. A leading member of the Methodist church for many years, he has held official connection in the responsible positions of trustee thirty years, class-leader twenty-five years, and sexton, recording steward and Sunday school superintendent, also, for long periods. He was the first treasurer of the American Bible Society in this county. He has shown himself active and useful in the temperance movement, and has belonged to about all the organizations in New Boston. He was bred politically in the whig party, and cast his first vote for Henry Clay in 1844. He has maintained his fidelity to the republican party since its organization. Mr. and Mrs. Alyea have been the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are dead. The survivors are: Thomas Edmund, a physician, living at Princeville; Willard Henry, Florence Luella, and Lily Belle.

SIDNEY CHIDSTER, farmer, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, April 1, 1816. He is the fourth child of Hezekiah and Lyda Chidster. He worked with his father at the carpenter's trade until twenty-two years of age, when he came west and settled in Mercer county, where he has lived ever since. Being one of the early settlers of the county, he had to endure all the hardships connected with pioneer life. His education was limited to a common school course. In politics Mr. Chidster had always been a republican until 1875, when he joined the party known as the greenback party, of which he has since been a member. He was elected school trustee in 1845, and served twenty-five years consecutively. In 1847 he was elected justice of the peace, and served three years. In 1849 he was elected county associate justice for the term of three years. He was the first supervisor of New Boston township, and served as chairman of that board. In later years, he has served ten years as township collector. He has always been an active temperance man. In March, 1842, he was married to Miss Rachel Stewart, daughter of William and Nancy Stewart. She was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, August 10, 1823. They have had three children: William and Lyda, who are at home, and Rachel, who is married to Milton F. Weeden. August 10, 1853, Mr. Chidster was called to mourn the loss of his beloved wife.

HENRY H. ROBERTS, lumber merchant, was born in England,

August 11, 1819. He is next to the youngest child of James and Elizabeth Roberts, who came to America in 1828, landing at Boston, Massachusetts, where they lived until 1836. Mr. Roberts lived in Indiana two years before coming to Mercer county. He built a carding machine in New Boston township, which was the first in the county. This he ran for two years, when he removed to Eliza township, entered 120 acres of land and bought eighty acres more, and went to farming. He remained in this business until 1856, when he went to New Boston and built a large three-story brick carriage and wagon factory in partnership with Joe Graham, forming the firm of Graham & Roberts. They continued business until 1860, when Mr. Roberts bought Graham out. In 1861 Mr. Roberts went back to his farm, and farmed until 1865, when he went to Monmouth, Illinois, and started a sash, door and blind factory and planing-mill, which he ran until 1869, when his mill was burned down. Returning to New Boston, he refitted the building he had formerly occupied as a factory, for a hotel, the Roberts House, which he ran until 1875, since which time he has been engaged in the lumber trade. On March 20, 1845, he was married to Miss Mary Baker, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Baker. She was born December 7, 1826, and died June 16, 1858. He was married again September 29, 1859, to Miss Maria J. Dunn, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Dunn. By his first marriage he had six children: Elizabeth H. (married to Albert Denison), Marshall, Albert (dead), Harriet (dead), Clarence (dead), Charles S. (dead). By his last marriage he has two children: Richard H. and Ernest. Morally speaking, he has always been an active temperance man. Politically he was a republican until 1872, when he joined the greenback party, to which party he has ever since strictly adhered.

MARY D. WILLITS was born in Butler county, Ohio, May 31, 1823. She is the sixth child of Joseph and Margretta (Love) Alyea. She came with her parents to Franklin county, Indiana, where they lived until 1838, when they came to Mercer county, settling in the town of New Boston. Her father was one of the first to start in business. She was married to William Danford September 13, 1845. Mr. Danford was born March 21, 1807. He was the third child of Enoch and Mary Danford. They had four children: William B., married to Alice Kesler; Melville C., to Dora Noble; Joseph A., to Fannie Strong; Mozart, to Clara Mannon. William B. was born June 29, 1846; Melville C., September 22, 1847; Joseph A., December 5, 1848; Mozart, March 16, 1850. William Danford, Sr., died July 27, 1850. Mrs. Danford married again March 10, 1852, to William Willits, who was the seventh child of Jesse and Susannah Willits. He was born



sionally as far as Preemption. He was always present at the annual camp-meetings at Sugar Grove, where he worked incessantly, arduously and willingly in the grand cause. He would frequently start from home early on the Sabbath, preach at 11 A.M. at one point, at 4 P.M. at another, and at early candle-light at a third, driving home, twelve or fifteen miles, at the close of the latter service, and all from a love for the work, with no thought of reward in this life. He was very frequently called upon to perform the marriage ceremony and to preach funeral sermons, often riding fifteen to twenty miles in response to these calls, and receiving only the thanks of interested parties as payment for his services and loss of time. In the spring of 1850 his second wife went to her reward, closing a life of earnest, active and efficient christian work, loved and mourned by all who knew her, yet leaving the memory of her pure nature to be fondly cherished by all. In October, 1851, he was again married, his wife being Mrs. Rachael Salvin, of Warren county. On the night of his return to New Boston with his bride his residence was burned to the ground, and as it was his all, he removed what little was saved from the flames to the farm of his wife, lying in the northwest corner of Warren and the northeast corner of Henderson counties, adjoining the Mercer county line. Here he continued his pastoral labors, having regular appointments at Sunbeam, Bald Bluff, Little York, Pleasant Green and other points. For three years he rode the Camden circuit, Rock Island county, as a "supply," and for one or more he supplied the Oquawka circuit, Henderson county. He organized what is now known as Belmont Church, in the latter county, and it was largely through his influence that the church building was erected. In the winter of 1865, after a life of earnest work and usefulness, he passed "over the river" to meet the Master whom he had so faithfully and conscientiously served, well assured of the welcome, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." His remains were interred at Belmont, but in 1872 were removed to the New Boston cemetery, where a small but appropriate stone marks his grave. His wife died in 1872. Not one of the early settlers of the county was more widely known, more highly respected, or more sincerely mourned than Father Doughty. Politically Father Doughty was identified with the democratic party, particularly the Douglas wing, until the breaking out of the rebellion, after which he voted with the republicans. His sympathies were all with the Union, and the enlistment of his youngest son, Lucien B., and two step-sons, F. J. and Benjamin Sarvin, deepened his interest and solicitude in the movements of the Union army. In answer to a letter announcing the enlistment of his son, he wrote :



Yours very respectfully  
B C Taliaferro





“While I shall always feel an anxiety for your safety, and all the more keenly that I realize in part the dangers to which you will be exposed, I have no word of regret for your course. God bless you and preserve you, and grant a speedy victory to our noble army.” And again, when that son wrote that he had re-enlisted as a veteran, he writes : “I had hoped that you would return after your three years’ service. It would seem that you had certainly performed your whole duty in that time, and that some one might take your place. But perhaps I am getting selfish, as it seems so long since I have seen you. Your first duty is to your country, and I will only say what I said when you first enlisted : ‘Do your duty, and may God protect and keep you.’” Who will say that the prayers of such a true christian were not answered in the return of that son unharmed after over four years of active service. His educational advantages were limited, but the Bible was his constant companion and study. Without the rhetorical flourish and oratorical display of the modern preacher, his sermons were delivered with a force and earnestness peculiar to the early itineracy, and with a power for good that would to-day seem phenomenal. Of this power Rev. Richard Haney, still living, tells the following : “I remember one scene at an early camp-meeting at Sugar Grove. I had charge of the services for the day. Two sermons had been delivered, and in the afternoon Father Doughty occupied the stand. I never listened to such earnest appeals to the sinner, nor did I ever witness such an immediate answer to the prayers. The large audience were completely carried away by the sermon, and the shouting, and praying, and crying soon drowned the voice of the preacher, who, with his gray locks flying in the wind, and the tears rolling down his cheeks, was vainly trying to make himself heard. Turning to me he asked, ‘what shall I do?’ and I could only say, ‘let them alone, Father Doughty ; the Lord has taken this meeting out of your hands. Let them alone ; He will take care of it now ;’ and he sank exhausted to his seat. I repeat it : I never heard a sermon of more power, nor ever witnessed such an outpouring of the spirit.” With an early-day marriage at which he officiated, we will close this sketch. Driving along the “Bluff” road one summer day, he was hailed by a man plowing corn, who, leaving his plow, invited Father D. into the house of his employer “on urgent business.” Here was the daughter of the house, a comely maiden, engaged in mixing bread. After a whispered word from the plowman she wiped the flour from her hands, rolled down her sleeves, and the pair presented themselves for marriage, he in his shirt-sleeves, she with a big apron on. The ceremony was promptly per-



formed, the bride returned to her bread, the groom to his plow, and the minister proceeded on his journey, all as if nothing unusual had happened.

The ancestors of JOHN L. HARTSON, of New Boston, came from England and settled at Haverhill, Massachusetts, and took an active part in the struggle for American independence. Andrew Hartson, grandfather of J. L., who was born April 6, 1756, was under twenty years of age when serving under Gen. Washington at Dorchester Heights, etc. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, November 28, 1780, in Connecticut, where he subsequently made his home, following the occupation of a mechanic, excelling in the manufacture of augurs. He invented the screw augur, although the credit has since been claimed by another. His family consisted of three sons: Jesse, the eldest, who died in early childhood; Ebenezer, still living (February 11, 1882), at the advanced age of ninety-six years; and John, the father of John L. John was born September 3, 1790; was married in March, 1810, to Miss Alice Utley, by whom he had three sons, named in the order of their ages: Andrew, Lester and John Lyman, born December 29, 1814. His father died March 5, 1816, when John L. was but little past fourteen months old. He remained with his mother until about ten years old, when he started out to make his own way in the world. The first two or three years he worked on a farm in summer, and went to school in winter, doing chores for his board. He thus received the rudiments of an English education, and acquired a love of reading, by which means he has stored up a large fund of useful knowledge and general intelligence. He next worked in a woolen factory a year or two, but not liking that business apprenticed himself to learn the trade of scythe-making; but his employer being an intemperate man failed in business, and John L. was thus thrown out of employment before he had served his time. It was at this time, seeing the evil effects of strong drink, he became a firm advocate of total abstinence, and has always been strictly temperate, using neither spirituous liquors, wine nor tobacco. He soon after found employment in an augur factory in Ashford, Windham county, where he remained until he was twenty-one years old, becoming a very skillful workman. He went to Humphreysville (now Seymour), New Haven county, in January, 1836, where he worked as journeyman at augur-making. He was married April 24, 1836, to Miss Mary J. Hartshorn, by whom he had three children: one daughter, Alice A., and two sons, Lyman L. and John S., all of whom died under three years of age. In January, 1843, he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he was an active and exemplary member. In March, 1843, he

was initiated into the Housatonic Lodge, No. 6, I.O.O.F., at Birmingham, and in September, 1846, he withdrew from that lodge in order to organize one in Humphreysville, his place of residence, and accordingly was a charter member of Mechanics Lodge, No. 73, and was the second N.G. of that lodge. In 1848 he purchased an interest in the manufactory where he had been employed since 1836. In 1850 he bought the whole establishment, which he carried on very successfully for a number of years. In 1852 he was elected representative to the state legislature, which office he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. In 1854, having met with a considerable loss by indorsing for others, he sold out and came west, landing in New Boston November 8th of that year, where he purchased the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, T. 14, R. 5, which he commenced improving the following spring. Soon after his settlement in New Boston, J. L. Hartson, Mark J. O'Brien, J. C. Bell, C. H. Bell, D. Hines and others, became charter members of the New Boston Lodge, I.O.O.F., which was the first organized in the county. Mr. Hartson was the first N.G. and the first representative to the state Grand Lodge from this town and county. He remained on his farm about four years, when he bought a drug store in New Boston, which he carried on a little over two years; during that time his wife Mary died. On January 8, 1860, he was married to his present wife, who was Mrs. Fanny M. Campbell, nee Mead. In April of 1863, having sold his town property, he returned to his farm, where he is still enjoying the quiet of rural life in his home, surrounded by a few congenial friends who know him best and love him most.

WILLIAM LEWIS was born in Wayne county, Indiana, April 25, 1832. His parents were formerly from Greene county, Virginia. He received a common school education, and in 1854 came to Mercer county and settled in New Boston township, where he has since resided. He was married October 30, 1856, to Sarah Jane, daughter of Pettis and Maria J. Finch. They have one child: Levi. Mr. Lewis is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and has been since 1862. He is an extensive farmer, owning 620 acres of land. He has very fine buildings on his farm, and is engaged largely in stock raising and shipping. Politically he is a republican.

WILLIAM T. MURRAY was born in Frederick county, Maryland, April 16, 1820. He is the oldest son of William and Susan (Jackson) Murray. William T. left his native state in 1840, and after traveling over the states of Indiana and Ohio, he settled in Wayne county, Indiana, where he lived several years. In 1856 he came to Mercer county, Illinois, where he has resided ever since. During his early life he was



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WILLIAM T. MURRAY was born in Frederick county, Maryland, April 16, 1820. He is the oldest son of William and Susan (Jackson) Murray. William T. left his native state in 1840, and after traveling over the states of Indiana and Ohio, he settled in Wayne county, Indiana, where he lived several years. In 1856 he came to Mercer county, Illinois, where he has resided ever since. During his early life he was



engaged in the butchering business. Since coming to Mercer county he has been chiefly engaged in farming and stock raising. In 1877 he again engaged in the butchering business in New Boston. Politically he has been a republican since 1860, but previous to that time he was a democrat. He has been a member of the Methodist church since 1854, and has always advocated the temperance cause. In August, 1843, he was married to Miss Mary Jackson, daughter of Amor and Debby Jackson, of Wayne county, Indiana. Although her maiden name is the same as his mother's, they are not related. They have reared three children: William H., who is married to Miss Anna Essley; Alice, married to Thomas Murphey; and Gertrude, who remains at home with her parents.

JACOB LOOZER, farmer, was born March 10, 1834, in Switzerland, and emigrated to this country in 1854, and after working one year in Michigan came to Mercer county, where he has since resided. Mr. Loozer came, hearty and industrious, and with nothing to aid himself in this distant land but a willing pair of hands. Although he did not come until much later than some, he ranks among the wealthiest men in the county. After he came to the county he labored for four years on the farm for William Drury. Living very economically, at the end of four years he found he had money enough to purchase eighty acres of land, which he did. He has added to it at different times, until he has at present 640 acres. He was married March 10, 1859, to Miss Barbary Sloan. They have four children, all of whom are living. Mr. Loozer was the first man in the county to put up a wind pump. He is also agent for the Halladay's wind-mill, which is one of the best mills manufactured. He has always been an active republican. Mr. Loozer farms on a very large scale. He generally puts in 250 acres of corn.

JOHN SEASTONE, wagonmaker and blacksmith, was born in Sweden, August 3, 1834. He came to this country in 1858, landing at Quebec August 21. From Quebec he went to Minnesota, where he stayed until 1859, when he came on to New Boston township, where he has lived ever since. He worked at the blacksmith trade about four years at the "brick yard," which is five miles northeast of New Boston. From this point he removed to New Boston, where he has been largely engaged in wagonmaking, blacksmithing, and selling machinery of all kinds. He does a very large business, especially in the way of selling machinery. May 23, 1860, he was married to Miss Eva S. Hilmore. They have had seven children: Mary, Dora, Kate, John E., Charles V., Emma, Charlotte. They are all single, and live at home with their parents. Mr. Seastone is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church, at Swedona, Mercer county, Illinois. He is also a

member of the order of Masons, at New Boston. Politically he is a republican.

T. H. DOUGHTY, police magistrate and book-keeper, was born in Centerville, Wayne county, Indiana, in 1831, and was the fourth child in a family of eleven children by Thomas L. and Mary J. (Kibbey) Doughty. In 1842 he emigrated to New Boston with his parents. He was a pupil of Simeon P. Smith, and under his tuition obtained a useful education. When a boy he worked in his father's shop and learned the saddler's trade; but most of the time since he became of age he has been a book-keeper. He was married in 1856 to Miss Hattie M. Doughty, by whom he has had seven children: Willie (dead), Kate (now Mrs. P. E. Tovey), Harry (dead), Josie (dead), Jim E., Sue, and an unnamed infant. Mr. Doughty has been active among his townsmen in promoting temperance work, and the interests of the republican organization. He is a member of the Independent Order of Mutual Aid, and has held several local offices. He was the first mayor of New Boston, and is at present town clerk and police magistrate.

GIDEON IVES, merchant, was born in Wallingford, Connecticut, in 1825, and was the youngest son of Gideon and Charlotte (Hall) Ives. He received an academic education in his native town, and in 1843 came west and settled in New Boston, where he at once began clerking for the firm of Denison & Ives. As early as 1846 he embarked in general merchandising in partnership with Elmer J. Denison, and kept up this connection until about 1865. At that date Mr. Ives withdrew from the firm and was out of trade till 1881, when he formed a partnership with Frank Ives (his son) and C. H. Ballard (his son-in-law), under the style of Ives, Ballard & Co. Mr. Ives was originally a whig, and voted first for president for Gen. Taylor in 1848. He has been a steadfast republican since his party came into existence. He has always been squarely identified with the temperance work. In 1853 he was united in marriage with Miss Rachel, daughter of John Drury, by whom he has had seven children, as follows: Frank, who married Miss Lizzie Moll; Jennie, wife of C. H. Ballard; Flora, Fred, Nellie (died in infancy), Hattie and Paul.

CHARLES W. BRAS, lawyer and collector, was born in Lake county, Ohio, May 16, 1828, and is the fourth child of Thomas and Ann (Norton) Bras. He came west with his parents in 1837, settling in Louisa county, Iowa, where he worked with his father until of age. He then learned the mason's trade and was engaged in this until 1850, when he went overland to California, enduring all the hardships connected with an overland trip across hundreds of miles of a wilderness,



where rain never falls, and vegetation does not exist. After arriving in California he clerked in a store one year, after which he was engaged in mining and running a pack-train. He returned to Louisa county, Iowa, in 1853, and was in business there until 1868, when he came to New Boston, where he opened up a law office, and has been in business ever since. During the late rebellion he enlisted in the 45th reg. Iowa Vol., and served six months, and was discharged. He received a common school education, and being a close student he has acquired a good education. In September, 1853, he was married to Miss Hannah M. Dennott. They have four children: Clarence C., Harry L., Ralph C., Charlotte E., all of whom are living. He has served eleven years as justice of the peace, and has been a Mason over sixteen years. In politics he is a republican.

R. S. CRAMER, farmer, was born in Clermont county, Ohio, September 5, 1825, being the first child of William and Sarah (Shute) Cramer. William was the first son of Adam Cramer, an early settler of Kentucky, being a near neighbor of the noted Daniel Boone of early Kentucky fame. R. S. was married to Mrs. Charlotte B. Harris in the fall of 1847; she was born in Miami county, Ohio, in the year of 1831. They emigrated to Knox county in the fall of 1855. His wife was feeble at the time, and died in July, 1856. Two children were born of this union, but they both died while quite young. Mr. Cramer came to this county in the fall of 1856 to make this his permanent home. He remembers of passing along the Air Line railroad (surveyed) over the site where now stands Aledo. It was then (1855) nothing but a bleak prairie, relieved only by the stakes for the railroad. He made his home with James M. Manon, of Eliza township (afterward elected sheriff and circuit clerk of this county, and who was, during the late war, colonel of the 102d Ill. Vol.), until he married the Widow Cole in February, 1857. She was a sister of the colonel and daughter of Aaron Manon of the same township. The Widow Cole (his present wife) was born in Wayne county, Indiana, in 1820, and emigrated to this county with her father's family in 1836, and settled in Eliza township. There has been no children by this marriage. Immediately after his marriage he settled two and a half miles north of New Boston, where he has lived for more than twenty-five years. Mr. Cramer was brought up in a neighborhood where almost everybody belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. He joined at fifteen years of age and remained a member of the same some fifteen years. He always indulged in much reading and reflection. The result was he became heterodox in his theological opinions, and to-day is well known as a spiritualist. In politics he early became convinced of the great wrongs inflicted upon

the slaves. 'He gave his first vote for Salmon P. Chase for governor of Ohio, because of his anti-slavery proclivities. From that time till the formation of the republican party he gave his votes where he thought they would promote the anti-slavery interest. He voted for Fremont in 1856 and continued to act with the republican party until Grant was candidate for president the second time; and although he was a great admirer of Greeley he refrained from voting at all until Peter Cooper run on the greenback ticket for president. From that time to the present he has been an ardent greenbacker and anti-monopolist. He is serving at this time (1882) as chairman of the central committee for the greenback labor party of this county. Mr. Cramer was a very enthusiastic supporter of the late war, having full confidence that it would result in the freedom of the slaves. He wrote the first articles (published in the "New Boston Herald" and the "Aledo Record") that were ever published in this county advocating the policy as well as the justice of giving the negro the right to vote.

We think it proper to mention here the name of STEPHEN RANDALL as one of the well to do farmers of New Boston township. He came to the northeastern part of the township, where he has resided ever since, having accumulated considerable property. He was born in Rensselaer county, New York, November 8, 1813. He is the oldest child of Stephen and Nancy (Cutler) Randall. He came with his parents to Mercer county in the year 1843. He was married February 13, 1844, to Miss Rachel Trumbull of Rensselaer county, New York. She was born September 29th, 1827, and is the sixth child of William and Pauley Trumbull. They have had eleven children (three of whom are dead): Nancy A., married to Joseph Tomelson; William M., to Lucinda Uterback; Lucy M., to Calvin C. Wyatt; Pauley E., to John Fulerton; Celia M., to James W. Scott; Stephen, Cilvia and Aaron are dead; Minnie, Alonzo and Theron are at home with their parents. Rachel, his wife, died November 15, 1864. He was married again June 14, 1875, to Mrs. M. J. Jones. She was born June 29, 1833, in Rensselaer county, New York, and is a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Brooks) Bradt. Mr. Randall received only a common school education. In politics he is a republican. He has at present 434 acres of land in section 10 of New Boston township, and also 160 acres in Iowa.

The subject of this sketch, O. C. Lutz, was born in Mercer county, Illinois, March 14, 1845, and is next to the youngest child of Isaac and Lydia (Light) Lutz. His father came to Mercer county in 1836 and settled in New Boston township, where he resided until his death, which took place in October, 1879. His mother died September, 1879,



at the age of seventy-four. His father was seventy-eight years of age at his death. O. C.'s father built the first grist mill in the county about 1838. In 1858 he built a large and commodious mill near the site of the old one. O. C. Lutz started out in life with limited means. He has gradually worked his way up until he now owns considerable property. The first real estate he owned was eighty acres in Eliza township. This he sold in 1873 and went to York county, Nebraska, where he became the owner of 480 acres of land, which yields him an annual income of \$700. In March, 1881, he bought the mill estate of his father's in Mercer county, Illinois, and returned in October of the same year, and has refitted the mill and is now prepared to compete with any other mill in the country. November 1, 1871, he was married to Miss Permelia, daughter of Henry and Permelia Hempton. She was born October 12, 1854. They have had two children. In connection with his mill property he owns 167 acres of land. Mr. Lutz is a republican and cast his first vote for Lincoln.

THOMAS WILLITT, farmer, was born August 22, 1846, in Mercer county, Illinois. His parents were Kentuckians. He was married September 18, 1871. His wife was the daughter of David and Nancy Brought. She was born in Hancock county, Ohio, December 9, 1848. In 1862 Mr. Willitt enlisted in the 30th reg. Ill. Vol. He served his country until the close of the war, and then returned to his home and engaged in agriculture. He received a common school education. He makes a living for himself and family by honest toil.

LYMAN H. SCUDDER was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, October 29, 1829. In the year 1847 he came to New Boston, where he resided until the spring of 1852, when he started with an ox team for California, and arrived in Placerville in September of that year. He was engaged in mining and farming until the summer of 1855, when he returned to New Boston. He then engaged in the livery business, which he followed until the summer of 1862. In July of that year he enlisted, and on the tenth day of September he was mustered into the service of the United States as captain of company G, 124th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. His regiment became a part of the third Division of the 17th Army Corps, which was then engaged in preparing for the capture of Vicksburg, Miss. He participated in several skirmishes and battles, in one of which (Champion Hills, Miss.) he was wounded, and in July, 1864, owing to ill health, he resigned his commission and returned to his home. He has been a resident of New Boston ever since. The subject of this sketch has been twice married. May 13, 1861, he was married to Miss Fanny E. Ives, of Oquawka, Illinois, who died in May, 1865, leaving one son. February 11, 1866, he was

married to Miss Helen L. Moore, daughter of George and Jemima Moore, of New Boston. She was born in Eliza township, four miles from her present residence, on May 10, 1837. She has a just claim to be called one of the early settlers. In politics Captain Scudder is republican, having voted and advocated the principles of that party ever since its organization. For the past sixteen years he has resided on a farm three miles north of New Boston and has taken considerable interest in apiarian pursuits.

The subject of the following sketch is not identified with the history of Mercer county for so long a period as some others, as he did not come until 1848. Mr. ISOM JACKSON was born in Hancock county, Indiana, April 4, 1839, and consequently was nine years of age when he came to this county with his parents. He is the youngest child of Dempsy and Mary Jackson. His parents are still living at the age of seventy-five each. As a tiller of the soil Mr. Jackson has worked at it all his life. By grasping the few advantages afforded in early times he obtained a common school education. He was married May 29, 1864, to Miss Salinda, daughter of John and Rachel Fisher. Mr. Jackson was always a democrat until 1876, when he joined the green-back party, of which he has been a member ever since. They have had six children, all of whom are living: they are Ed., John, Homer, Thomas, Bert and Edney. Mr. Jackson has been very successful in accumulating property. At present he has 240 acres of land, 200 of which is in New Boston township and 40 in Eliza. In response to his country's call he enlisted in the 124th regiment, and after serving eleven months, was wounded in the left hand and right arm, from which he has been a cripple ever since.

Among the well-to-do farmers of New Boston township may be mentioned THOMAS J. JACKSON, who was born in Hancock county, Indiana, July 24, 1837. He is next to the youngest child of Dempsy and Mary Jackson. When eleven years of age he came with his parents to Mercer county, Illinois, settling in New Boston township, where he has resided ever since. His parents are still living at the age of seventy-five each, and in good health. Mr. Jackson worked with his father until twenty-one years of age, when he commenced farming for himself, in which business he has been engaged ever since with the exception of two years spent in California, where he went in 1862, staying two years. He went by the way of New York, down the Atlantic, across the Isthmus of Panama, and up the Pacific ocean to San Francisco, and returned in 1864. Received a common school education. He was married to Miss Samantha Drew, daughter of Harrison and Eliza Drew, March, 1860. They had one child, which



died April, 1862. His wife died March, 1863. He was married again August 12, 1868, to Miss Louisa, daughter of David and Eliza Honeyman. They had one child: Gid, who was born April 23, 1875. Mr. Jackson owns the northeast quarter of section 8, in New Boston township, 80 acres of which he bought in 1873 and 80 in 1875.

MARSHALL FLEMING, farmer, was born in Henry county, Indiana, September 8, 1831, and is the oldest child of John W. and Angeline (Cellars) Fleming. He came with his parents to Mercer county, Illinois, in the year of 1849. Two years later he commenced farming for himself. His father was born in Fairmont county, West Virginia, April 20, 1809, and departed this life February 26, 1854. His remains rest in the New Boston cemetery. His mother was born in 1812, in Brown county, Ohio, and is still living at the age of seventy years. Marshall was married to Miss Nancy Rader August 20, 1853. She is the daughter of Abraham G. and Catharine Rader. Her parents were among the early settlers of the county, coming in the year 1838. She was born September 27, 1836, in Henry county, Indiana. The young couple started out in life with nothing but a two-year-old colt. For their household goods and one horse they went in debt. This horse and his two-year-old colt made his team. Thus he went on adding a little each year to his capital, until he has acquired a good, well-improved farm, having twice taken the first premium. His farm is situated two miles northeast of New Boston. He and his wife have been members of the Methodist church since 1872. In politics he is a republican. They have had two children: Josephine, born November 27, 1858; Elsie, born January 29, 1862, and died October 8, 1863.

G. W. BRIDGER, farmer, was born January 13, 1858, in Mercer county, Illinois, and is the oldest son of Charles H. and Martha F. Bridger. He was married February 3, 1881, to Miss Josephine Fleming, daughter of Marshall and Nancy Fleming. He lived with his father and worked on the farm until nineteen years of age, when he determined to have at least a common school education. Working in summer he earned enough to send him to the village school of Viola during the fall and winter. This he followed up for three years, working summers and attending school fall and winter. He then taught school for a number of terms. At present he is engaged in farming.

JAMES P. POWLEY, farmer, was born in Hancock county, Indiana, September 4, 1832. He came to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1849. He was married February 22, 1854, to Sarah J., daughter of Andrew and Jane Malady. He has been in Mason since 1861. He owns a farm of 140 acres, well improved. Mr. and Mrs. Powley have had born to them two children.

GEORGE H. SIGNOR, grocer, was born in New York in 1835. He was the oldest son. His parents, John and Araminta C. (Lawrence) Signor, had eleven children, and in 1839 they removed with them to Ross county, Ohio. In 1845 the family emigrated still farther west, settling in Columbus City, Louisa county, Iowa. Living there a year, they next came to Oquawka, where his father shortly after died, aged about forty-six years. In 1853 Mr. Signor settled in New Boston, where he was married and has since had his home. His mother is still living at the age of seventy-three. It is a curious fact that the ages of her nine living brothers and sisters average her own age. His marriage on January 1, 1857, was with Miss Maria Alyea, of New Boston, daughter of Joseph Alyea, one of the first settlers and business men in the place. Mr. Signor was employed by him as a clerk when he first came. Both he and his wife are communicants in the Methodist church, of New Boston, of which he is steward. He takes a lively interest in the temperance cause, and has always taken a leading part in organizations of that nature. He has filled the highest position in three Good Templar lodges and is an Odd-Fellow of twenty-five years' standing. Raised a whig, he voted first for Fremont, and has since trained strictly with the republicans. In 1880 he started in the grocery trade.

GEORGE GORE, banker, was born in Maryland in 1837, and was the only son of Philip and Susannah (Baughman) Gore. He had six sisters. In 1841 his parents moved west and settled in Columbus City, Louisa county, Iowa, where his mother died the next year at the age of forty-two. In 1846 his father married again, this time Mrs. Margaret Alexander, and in 1854 moved with his family to Keithsburg, where he engaged in merchandising. He had been previously selling goods in Columbus City. Mr. Gore remained with his father at Keithsburg until 1864, when he went to Montana for the benefit of his health. Being restored, he returned at the end of nine months and settled in New Boston, and during the succeeding eight years was in the service of Wells Willits as book-keeper. In 1873 he embarked in trade on his own account, and was in partnership the first two years with C. H. Bell. Impaired health caused him to sell out in 1880, and with his family he went to Florida, spending seven months there. Returning somewhat improved, he engaged in banking in the autumn of 1881. Mr. Gore has been a Mason since 1874, and has held the office of alderman and mayor. He was mayor of New Boston in 1879, and as a firm supporter of the temperance programme and principles was chosen to that place to further the interests of the community from that standpoint. Always a democrat in politics, he stood



with those who gave hearty encouragement to the Union cause throughout the war. In local elections he votes for whomsoever is, in his judgment, the best man. He was married in July, 1861, to Miss Emily C. Hubbell, step-daughter of H. G. Calhoun. Their only son, Clair, is nine years old.

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### KEITHSBURG TOWNSHIP.

This is township 13, range 5, embracing fifteen full and four fractional sections. The soil is generally sandy, particularly so along the river which is skirted above Keithsburg by a narrow belt of timber. It lies upon the elevated bottom lands below the bluff, which once confined a mightier and more majestic flood than the "Father of Waters," whose headstrong tide washes its western boundary in easy and graceful curves.

The first settler was John Vannatta. He came alone from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, arriving here about the first of May, 1827, and opened a supply yard for wooding steamboats. A year or two afterward his brother Benjamin followed him, and the two carried on together the peaceful employment of cutting and selling wood, until interrupted in 1831 by disquieting rumors of the uneasy disposition of the Indians and their preparations for war. Their neighbors at the Upper Yellow Banks, the Denisons, left their home for two months, and it is probable that these families also went away until security was assured. Next year the Black Hawk war broke out — a war in which the excitement was more disproportioned to the danger than in any other of which we read. But the danger was real and imminent in this region. Yet these white families remained busy at their toil, unmoved by the warnings and entreaties of their dusky friends, tarrying in the face of peril, refusing to depart. How was it hundreds of miles away? The people, alarmed by exaggerated reports, had loaded their wagons for possible flight, and regularly laid down to their slumbers with barricaded doors and in feverish anxiety. On the day that the Denisons came down on their way to Pence's fort, so-called, the Vannattas gathered up their goods, and with their families went out and stayed all night in a low place on the prairie. The following day they reached Pence's, where the inhabitants had collected from the surrounding country. This place and Monmouth were the rallying points for a large section during the war. Pence's stockade was made of logs split once in two, stood upright and close together with one end in the ground, forming a palisade not less than twelve feet high and

enclosing about 700 square yards of ground. After a few months' absence the Vannattas returned. Benjamin Vannatta had a pre-emption claim to the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 22, where Keithsburg now stands.

About the month of August, 1833, John Bates settled on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33, and made a small farm which was occupied some three years afterward by Isom Lakey, who continued to reside in this township with his family up to 1860 or 1861. The next settler was Erastus S. Denison, who came down from the Upper Yellow Banks (New Boston) in 1835, and made a claim upon the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1. Samuel Vannatta joined his brothers about the spring of 1835. In the fall of that year they sold out their claims to Robert Keith, a Scotchman, who had emigrated to America the year before, and who took possession the following spring, when the Vannattas all removed to the vicinity of Muscatine (then called Bloomington), Iowa.

As the founder of Keithsburg Robert Keith is entitled to more than incidental notice. He was reared in Belfrone, Scotland, where he received a liberal education.

After his second marriage in that country in 1821, he lived two years in London, and was a traveling salesman for a book establishment. He then went to Dublin, where he had control of a similar house, and whence he embarked for this country. He left New York and came direct to Quincy, Illinois, in the spring of 1835, and in the autumn following made his selection for a permanent home at this place, which became known as Keith's Landing.

In the spring of 1836 Abner Martin settled on the southwest quarter of section 13, and in the same year sold out to John McH. Wilson, who occupied the premises the following year and lived in the same place until his death in 1879. He was one of the most respectable citizens of the township.

The same spring William Sheriff and Paul Sheriff settled on the west half of section 24, and on the southwest quarter of the same section the latter is still a resident and prosperous farmer. In 1837 William Sheriff erected a saw-mill on Pope creek on the northeast quarter of section 23, and expended a large amount of money upon a dam which was a total loss, owing to quicksand in the bed of the stream, rendering the structure unserviceable. The mill rotted down, but at low-water mark some of the spiles in the bottom of the creek on which the dam rested may still be seen. J. McH. Wilson, Paul Sheriff, A. B. Sheriff and T. B. Cabeen were employed as laborers, and did many hard days' work upon this mill and dam, and all except Wilson are still living in the township. This was the only attempt ever made to erect a dam on Pope creek in this township. A. B. Sheriff



came in 1836, and Matthew Sheriff a year or two later. The latter died in 1863.

In 1836 Daniel Justice began to improve a farm on the southwest quarter of section 1, where he made a fine home and resided until the summer of 1851, when he sold to John Doak and moved to Polk county, Iowa. William Wilson, formerly of Danville, Pennsylvania, then of Chicago, Illinois, settled also in 1836 on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 13, where he improved a good farm and where his wife died in 1844, and he himself about two years later. John McH. Wilson was his son. His daughters, Hannah Nevius and Lucy Cabeen, are still residents of this township. About the year 1838 Joel A. Hall, the mill-wright who had charge of the work on William Sheriff's mill, entered and settled on the northwest quarter of section 13, but resided there only a year or two, when he sold out and went west. Near the same time Bennett Hurst settled on the northeast quarter of section 2 and made his home in that place up to 1850, when he disposed of his farm and bought other property in the township, and has been a citizen here till a recent date. Benjamin F. Gruwell moved from Indiana and took up a farm in November, 1837, on the northwest quarter of section 1; in 1852 he sold out and came to Keithsburg, where he kept hotel a number of years and has since resided. In 1837 or 1838 John W. Nevius began a home in the township. He lived here till his death in 1875. Joseph J. Wordin emigrated from Ohio and landed at New Boston in 1837. The following spring he became a resident of this township, and has had his home in Keithsburg nearly ever since. His wife died here in 1873.

Robert Keith laid out the town in 1837, and between that date and 1846 not more than half a dozen families, including Mr. Wordin's, came to reside in the place. The Rev. James Ross, a local preacher of the United Brethren church, arrived with his family about 1841, and was the first minister to take up his residence here. Both he and his wife died in this township some five years afterward, and many of their descendants can yet be found in this vicinity. In 1841 B. L. Hardin began a home on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 11, where he still resides and has become one of the solid farmers of the neighborhood. About 1842 James Garner came to Keithsburg with a few trifling articles of trade and a barrel of whisky, and made the first attempt at merchandising in the township. The business was unremunerative, and he sold out to David Bowen, who had come in 1839, and moved on to the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 25. In 1847 he left that place and came again to Keithsburg and this time went to keeping hotel. In the same year, and again in 1849, he was elected justice of the peace, and at one time was sheriff of the

county two years. Not long after his first election as magistrate he presided in a jury trial, with C. M. Harris, of Oquawka, and John Mitchell, of Monmouth, as opposing attorneys. The former was a man of admirable physical resources, while the latter would scarcely weigh a hundred pounds, and, besides, was disabled in the left arm from a wound received in the Mexican war. Harris stated the case to the jury and sat down. Mitchell arose and had proceeded but a little way with his statement when Harris in bullying tones said, "That is a lie!" A glance from Mitchell was all the attention that this sally received. A few moments elapsed and again Harris interposed, saying, "That is another lie!" Mitchell turned to him with gleaming eye and warned him not to repeat that insult or he would strike him, and then went on. A minute or two more and Harris broke in: "And that is an infernal lie!" The words were not more than uttered before Mitchell delivered a stunning blow between his eyes which sent him over backward to the floor. Some one interfered to separate them, while the justice was standing and looking over his table in bewilderment to see the fight go on. All of a sudden, as soon as it was over, he involuntarily brought his finger-tips down upon the board with a thud, exclaiming, in blank astonishment: "Well, I'll be d—d!" but instantly recovering himself and his dignity he called out to the offenders: "Gentlemen, I fine each of you \$10, by ——!"

A small chapter of such court incidents could be written, but this furnishes fully enough at one view of the manners of the period. Many years ago Mr. Garner removed to Millersburg where he still lives, holding on to life by feeble tenure.

Soon after purchasing Garner's mercantile stand Bowen closed up the business and moved to Rock Island, of which city he is still a resident. His son George was born on election day, August 3, 1840, and this is supposed to have been the first birth in Keithsburg. This election is said to have been the first held in the place. "A quart cup of whisky was kept standing on the judges' table all day for an hour glass," writes Mr. Bowen. About 1843 an old Frenchman by the name of Rochelle landed here in a small boat, bringing with him a few goods with which he started a country store. Shortly after a family named Omy came to the settlement, and it has always been reported that the young men made an excursion down the river one fine day in an open boat, accompanied by Rochelle, who suspiciously failed to return, and that his companions appropriated his effects.

In 1842 Zephaniah Wade made a claim to the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 14; he died in a few years, but his widow survived until a few months since, when she passed away in Keithsburg among her descendants.



In 1843 Nicholas Edwards settled on section 5, at the mouth of the Edwards river, where he and William Willett and Isaiah Brown had the year before erected a saw-mill. This year Willett sold his interest to Brown. After doing a successful business for sometime Edwards removed to his farm in Mercer township and is now a resident of Aledo. Brown went to California, where he died.

Another settler, who was less conspicuous for the term of his residence than for his ambition to become the builder of a town, was a man named Gavitt who made a claim about a mile below the landing, where in 1837 he laid off a town and designated it Columbia city. It occupied a high plateau which bore signs of having been formerly an Indian encampment. There was the field where the squaws had raised their corn; the pits in which it had been buried; and the places where their fires had burned were yet visible; and poles still standing in the ground showed where their lodges had stood. Gavitt's plat was not recorded, and he was not long in this vicinity. Alexander Davis bought his claim and entered the land.

We borrow the following sketch of "What Grandmother Said," which gives a very fair idea of the methods and resources of every day life in the pioneer period: "We came here in October, 1832. We lived the first winter in a log cabin made of hickory. We had a door made of clapboards, and a crack between the logs for a window. Our bedstead was made in the corner with one leg drove into the ground (we had no floor) and slabs laid across. The straw would freeze to the slabs. We had two chairs, brought with us from Kentucky; grandfather made stools for the children. We built our fire on the ground, and our chimney was made of sticks and daubed with mud. We baked our bread in a skillet, and made our own coffee by scorching meal and pouring boiling water on it. We had no table, so we ate on a goods box. We bored holes in the logs and put pins in and made our cupboard. I swept our floor with a bunch of hazel brush or a hay broom. In those days we never had to scrub or mop. When we butchered we made a scaffold on one side of the chimney and laid our meat up there, so the dogs and wolves could not get it. When I washed I went down to the spring, a quarter of a mile from the house, and carried the clothes. I had neither tub, board, nor boiler, but washed on my hands, in a large bucket, and did the boiling in an iron kettle. I have the kettle yet.

"This is the way we lived the first winter, and we were glad to get so good a house. I lived happier then than I do now in a fine house. There were two or three log cabins and a log court-house in Monmouth. . . . The mail carrier carried the mail from Oquawka to



WM GAYLE.





Monmouth in the top of his hat. We had to go to Rock Island to mill. We lived here one year without cows, sheep or chickens. We had one horse and two yoke of oxen that we moved here with, and a few hogs. In the fall of 1834 my husband died and left me with five little children. That fall the Indians burned our flax and wheat. When the children saw the flax burning they said: 'Oh! mother, what are we to do for clothes? our flax is burning up!' I paid my children's schooling, and my store bill, and my expenses for one year, with \$15. My taxes on half a section of prairie land and eighty acres of timber were two or three dollars."

The first visible results of civilized society are mail privileges, religious exercises and public instruction of the young.

*Postoffice.*—The "Bluff" postoffice, the pioneer in this vicinity, was established some time about 1837 at the house of Frederick Frick, in Abington township, five miles northeast of Keithsburg. As late as 1846 the people of the village, yet inconsiderable in numbers, went away out there to post their letters and to bring back their own and their neighbors' mail.

*First Schools.*—The first school in Keithsburg township, as we learn from Mrs. Samuel Scott, who was one of the pupils, was kept by Mrs. William Sheriff, in the summer of 1841 or 1842, in one room of her double log house, situated close to the site of the present farm house of James Wilson, northeast of Upper Keithsburg. The next was in John McH. Wilson's cabinet shop, in the summer of 1845, and Miss Lucy Wilson, now Mrs. T. B. Cabeen, was the teacher. The third school was in Keithsburg; but we shall defer the account of this and others until we come to the history of the town.

*Early Preaching.*—The earliest preaching was by the Rev. John Montgomery, who settled in Preemption township in the spring of 1836. He was a Presbyterian and held services throughout the country in different places, and usually in these parts once in two weeks, sometimes at William Sheriff's in this township, at other times at Frederick Frick's in Abington, or at Thomas Candor's in Ohio Grove. He died over thirty years ago.

The first Methodist minister of whom we have heard any account was the Rev. Asa McMurtry, who preached at the house of John Nevius in 1838. Religious services for some years after, no less than at this period, were irregular and only occasional. The Revs. Frank Smith and Samuel P. Burr came among the people soon after McMurtry.

For a long while at first the inhabitants were mostly Universalists, and they were ministered to from about 1842 to 1850 by the Rev.



Gregg, who came from Galesburg and occupied the church at the bluff in New Boston township, and when passing through Keithsburg to and from his charge, held services in the place.

The outward evidence was that the Master's kingdom did not more than hold its own. B. L. Hardin, who came in the spring of 1841, was here three months, he says, before he discovered a professing christian, though like Diogenes he hunted the bailiwick over, but not with the same cynical philosophy. The first meeting he attended was four miles north of his home, in New Boston township, at a Mr. Rader's, where the congregation numbered just six persons, including Mr. Rader's family. The Rev. Wiley was the itinerant. Preaching followed at that place every four weeks during the summer, and has been kept up in that neighborhood nearly ever since.

In the autumn of the same year services were begun at Mr. Hardin's house, and the first sermon was by the Rev. Burr, who had a charge in New Boston township. When the appointment was given out Mr. Hardin set himself to making benches out of common slabs to seat the crowd that he could see with the eye of faith would come to the meeting. He labored with zeal and the pile of benches grew. Unwittingly though done, it was successful advertising, rivaling the subtlest conception of the down-east Yankee. Curiosity and inquiry were the result, and as Noah when building the ark was the butt of questioners and doubters, so Mr. Hardin was beset with questions and skeptical objections, and if he was ridiculed a little it was all the same; the work went on. The preacher was early at hand, and as the hour for service approached, the door was thrown open to surprise the waiting minister with the inspiring sight of people swarming from every direction. He said the house would not hold the people, and it would not but for their standing up in a densely packed throng. The benches and the Christian perseverance of Brother Hardin had done holy work, but the former were now as useless as the open roof of the Arkansas traveler. However, they had subsequent use. This meeting showed that souls were hungry. Either an influx of orthodox Christians had come into the settlement between spring and fall, or the Universalists had turned out like boys to a circus.

The appointment was regularly continued at this place, and in the autumn of 1843 the first class ever organized in the township was formed at Mr. Hardin's house. The original members were James Gibson and his wife Polly, John Nevius and his wife Hannah, B. L. Hardin and his wife Minerva, and James Nevius, Jr. Mr. Kellogg joined at the next meeting. In the summer of 1846 preaching was begun at John McH. Wilson's by the Revs. Whitman and

Geddings, circuit riders, and services were kept up here one year. In warm weather day meetings were held in the grove; and at night in Mr. Wilson's cabinet shop. Other preaching points in the country were at John Nevius' and James Gibson's; and all four places were used until about 1850, when Keithsburg became the center where the people came together for worship.

The Vannattas made the beginning here. As early as 1834 Rousy Bowen was living in a little house on the bank of the river, and chopping wood for these men. By the next year Jesse Mount had come to the settlement, and the same season Robert Keith bought Benjamin Vannatta's claim, which embraced the site of the present town, and in the spring of 1836 took possession of his purchase. He continued keeping the wood-yard which his predecessors had started, and henceforth the place was called Keith's Landing. It was in this same year that the insane policy of internal improvement inaugurated an era of the wildest speculation ever witnessed in this country. It is next to incredible that men could have been capable of so visionary schemes. In the absence of epidemic excitement, half-grown boys would have shown more reason. But as it was, towns were planted everywhere by being laid off, as this was cheaply done; for the proprietors imagined they saw in it the source of sudden wealth. Although Father Keith could not have escaped the ruling influence of the times, it is plain that he did not reckon without some judgment, and that he was not mistaken as to the right place for the town, but it was with several years of patient suspense that he waited for the fruition of his hopes and plans.

The original survey was made by Hiram Hardie, deputy county surveyor, on July 29, 1837, and the plat was acknowledged before Abraham Miller, Jr., county clerk, by Mr. Keith, on November 18. The location is on Sec. 23, T. 13, R. 5. Two principal streets, Main and Washington, were laid out east and west, and these were crossed by seven others designated as First, Second, etc., beginning next the river. The plat comprised thirteen blocks. The first sale of lots took place in July, the same year, and several of them were bought at prices varying from \$20 to \$60. Subsequently a few families came here to settle, and prominent among the number was Joseph J. Wordin, the first wheelwright, who still resides in the town. But the place lingered along in discouraging inactivity until 1845. We refrain from calling it a town at this date, for its actual townhood has always been reckoned by the citizens from 1847, when it succeeded to the dignity of county-town. When emigration had brought to the back country a moderate but sturdy population, a convenient shipping point.



was of the first necessity. Even yet capital was scarce, and the times had not altogether abated their stringency, and business men did not stand ready then to invest in town property in a new country, in advance of the real demands of trade. So an association of farmers, living mostly in Abington and Ohio Grove townships, undertook, in 1844, to erect a warehouse in Keithsburg for storing and handling their grain. To encourage the project, Robert Keith gave lots six and seven, in block three, on which the building was begun, facing north at the foot of Main street; and when the frame was up, title to the property passed to William Willett. The evident prospect of future business brought Col. J. B. Patterson, of Oquawka, here, and he secured an equal interest in the warehouse on condition of finishing it. Keith had put up a small building for a business stand, and he persuaded Patterson to fill it with a stock of goods. "The Colonel put Spence Record into the new warehouse to receive grain, while he and Boothe Nettleton sold dry goods and groceries over on Washington street."

Writing afterward of the small beginnings of the place, Col. Patterson said: "At this time, 1845, we visited Keithsburg with a view of making it a trading point; to sell goods and buy produce. The improvements consisted of one frame house (which we had fitted up for a store), one log house, and three cabins. The trade of that season amounted to 3,690 bushels of wheat, 512 barrels of flour and 2,250 bushels of corn. At the close of the season we retired, leaving the work we had begun in the good hands and stout hearts of Messrs. Noble & Gayle; and *Nobly* have they kept the banner we entrusted to them waving in the *Gayle* until many a *Doughty* champion has risen up to proclaim the glories of a town which, though a wilderness a few years ago, is now *Rife* with business (the *Spice* or life we may say of prosperous progress), and ranks high among her sister towns."

Noble & Gayle, young and enterprising business men, erected a one-story frame store on lot 1, block 2, corner of Main and Second streets, and a warehouse on lot 10. In 1848, they built a brick packing house, which stood on lot 6. In the same year that Noble & Gayle began business, McConaha & Rife started a saloon, called in those days a grocery. The next store was opened the following year by Jonathan Judah, a Jew, and occupied lot 7, block 4. The old building is still standing. In 1848 Wilford J. Ungles arrived with his family and began trading at the foot of Washington street, where, in 1855, he erected a large warehouse, which is yet in use. Wilson Redmon began the erection this year of the brick building on Main street now owned and occupied by Mrs. McManus. While in process

of building he sold it to Dr. A. B. Campbell, who finished it. In the spring of 1849, McConaha & Rife dissolved partnership, and the latter embarked in the grocery trade, afterward adding dry goods, first occupying the Campbell building until he erected, the same year, the brick house adjoining it on the west. The brick store on the northeast corner of Main and Second streets was built by T. B. Cabeen, in 1848. On the second and third floors he fitted up a suit of rooms which were occupied by his family, while the business part of the house was filled the next year with a stock of goods by Mrs. E. Smith. In 1851, R. H. Spicer & Co., Mrs. Smith being the other member of the firm, started in trade in the same place.

In 1847 a series of elections having taken place, the ultimate choice for the county seat fell to Keithsburg. Donations from the citizens in and around the place were nearly, if not fully, sufficient to build the court-house. Keith gave half of the fractional tract known as Keith's first addition, which was shortly after laid out (January 12, 1848), and then the division of blocks was made by alternate choice. Those falling to the county were subdivided into lots, which were sold and the proceeds applied to the erection of the court-house; but Keith did not commence the sale of his for some years. The first term, and several subsequent ones of the circuit court, after the removal of the seat of justice, were held in Willett's warehouse, which use in various ways became a public convenience. The court-house was built on the secluded campus covering four-fifths of block 7, and all that part lying within the addition. It was finished at the end of the summer of 1851, and was considered a building that the county might be proud of in its infancy, though its squat appearance called out the malicious remark that it might be mistaken for a church. It is a one-story brick, 40×50 feet on the foundation.

Col. Patterson having wound up his business here in 1846, William Willett, who emigrated in 1838 and had just settled in the town this year, started up in the grain trade in the warehouse in which he and Patterson held joint ownership. When the latter transferred his interest to Burr P. McConaha, in 1849, the two formed a short-lived partnership, the last-named withdrawing early in 1850 and joining the emigration to California. Willett then leased the building for one year to Willits & Doughty and accepted a situation in their service. Next year Willits, who was the heavy member of the firm, and had stocked the house and sent Doughty down from New Boston, where both lived, to manage the business, sold out to A. B. Sheriff, William Willett and J. W. Doughty, and these men carried on business together a few years, Doughty finally selling to his partners. The



partnership of Sheriff & Willett lasted till 1864, when the latter retired just in time to save himself from the prodigious decline in prices following the close of the war, which overtook his partner and swamped him, as had been the issue with nearly all of the tradesmen in the crisis of 1857. The building was used for grain storage till about 1875, and from that time as a livery until January 20, 1879, at which date it was burned down. Thus disappeared the original landmark in which the real business history of Keithsburg had birth. Phelps & Brewer occupied it, but the loss, reaching \$1,000, fell upon Willett.

Dropping back to 1850, we find trade and industry in lively growth and activity, and the other attributes of townhood multiplying in social, benevolent and literary organizations. Before railroads came into use produce was hauled to the Illinois and Mississippi rivers; and prior to the construction of the Illinois & Michigan canal farmers went all the way to Chicago from this and adjoining counties with ox and horse teams to sell a little grain and pork, and to bring back a few store goods. Some of the pioneers who toiled in this manner are still living, and we have heard them say that the expenses of a trip were sometimes greater than the receipts. In point of business Oquawka was the senior of Keithsburg by a number of years, but now she had a spirited rival which was diverting a generous share of her hitherto large trade.

October 16th Col. Patterson published in Oquawka the first number of the "Oquawka Spectator and Keithsburg Observer," this title being confined to the inside of the sheet, and the "Observer" department to the third page. The Keithsburg editor was James W. Doughty, of the mercantile firm of Doughty & Willits.

At this time there were two places of public entertainment: the Calhoun House, built by John Moore in 1850, and kept by H. G. Calhoun; and the Keithsburg House, with J. B. McConaha as landlord.

A division of the Sons of Temperance was in a flourishing state, and in the early spring of 1852 "Star Union" of the Daughters of Temperance came to its support in the same beneficent work.

Late in the season a debating society was formed by some of the leading men for mental culture and entertainment during the winter, the most active being Robert Keith, John C. Pepper, B. C. Taliaferro, N. C. Adams, R. C. Cabeen, O. C. Allen and Dr. E. L. Marshall.

At the opening of the packing season James A. Noble put in operation his large, new slaughter-house, and about the same time Gayle finished an additional warehouse. Next spring Noble began selling the first drugs.

A little later occurred the remarkable flood of 1851. The water began rising near the end of May, and on the 29th was encroaching upon the streets; it continued to spread until it reached nearly to Fifth street, when it was standing over the lower part of the town from four to seven feet in depth, according to the inequalities of the surface. In the main quarter the ground has since been raised four feet by filling. The river kept up, at its highest stage until the 11th of June, when it commenced falling slowly. The "Observer" of that date said: "Our town is flooded. Goods and household furniture on platforms and second floors. We share the fate of our neighbors." It adds that the Mississippi covers the country from seven to ten miles in width 1,800 miles above its mouth. Rafts circulated in the streets in the course of business; and the row and sail boats Kate and Fawn went about the town by moonlight, bearing "lovely women and brave men," in pleasuring and serenading parties. The river was not within its banks again till after the 20th. This rise was compared to those of 1844 and 1828, and it is said surpassed them.

The high water of October, 1881, rose within a few inches of the same mark. Half a mile of the railroad track was submerged; and skiffs tied up on Second street. There was a notable freshet the previous June, and also one the preceding year.

July 15, 1852, by a vote of the citizens, Keithsburg became a corporate town under the general incorporation law; and on Monday, the 26th, the first board of trustees was elected, consisting of William Willett, J. J. Wordin, T. B. Cabeen, Alexander Davis and N. B. Partridge.

The same year William Gayle built a steam saw mill on Pope creek, where the railroad bridge crosses, and sold it to John H. Marshall & Co., by whom, in 1856, it was converted into a flouring mill. Subsequently it was known as the Ogden mill, and was burned after a few years. The second saw mill was built by Ender & Eckly at the foot of Van Buren street. This was burned down, and they immediately built another, which was run unsuccessfully some three years, when, being abandoned to creditors, it was bought by William D. Smith, who moved it to Jackson street, between Eighth and Ninth, where it was used for planing and sawing out dimension and hardwood lumber. The next saw mill was removed in 1857, or the year after, to the foot of Jackson street, by Alexander Frick, it having been first put up on John E. Willit's land to saw ties and timbers for the Warsaw & Rockford railroad. It was leveled by fire in 1859.

The fourth saw mill is the one standing at the foot of Van Buren street, on the site of the Ender & Eckly mill, and was built about 1865



by Smith & Hersey. It was the largest mill in the county when built, and was run with profit, employing some thirty-five men, till 1872, since which time it has not been operated, except in a small way. James C. Stevens erected a grist mill on Eighth street, between Main and Washington, about 1864. This was never a success, and was dismantled between 1877 and 1879. The Elevator Flour Mills were put into the Rife warehouse on Second street, at the foot of Washington, by W. D. Smith, in 1868. This building was consumed January 1, 1878.

About 1855 a distillery was erected on the river, in Mechanics' addition, by W. L. Matthews and O. C. Richardson. After operating it a year they sold it to William Gayle. Through his failure it passed out of his hands in 1857, and was idle till Benjamin Phelps became the owner. He ran it very successfully three years and sold it to Pickering. Stewart and Colvin each owned it afterward, and finally Mason & Crosby, of Chicago, who refitted it at large expense, when it was burned down in 1872, before they had put it in operation. It was insured for the sum of \$10,000. This distillery was not exempt from certain infirmities of transaction which was common to the distiller's business after the war had induced the high tax on spirits.

In 1880 C. A. & L. L. Mertz erected a saw and planing mill at the base of the sand bluff in Keith's first addition, which they are now operating in conjunction with their lumber trade.

In July, 1853, the ferry boat Dove, owned by Seth H. Redmon, began making daily trips between Keithsburg and Huron and Prairie Point. The same proprietor was "running the swift, staunch and capacious steam ferry boat Iowa," three years later.

Mr. Gayle erects a large two-story packing house in 1853. Keithsburg is in the middle of the period of its greatest growth, which extended from 1850 to 1856, and two more additions are laid out: Keith's second, April 1, and Sheriff & Cabeen's, June 3. The country for thirty-five miles back was tributary to this point, which was becoming, and soon became, the leading produce market above St. Louis. Trade got to be immense for a town of so moderate size. One "big day" in February, 1854, 250 teams were counted in the town, and it was believed that 300 had been in from the country. Of this number eighty remained over night. Gayle & Co. and Noble & Bro. were the packers at this date. In the following autumn the first-named firm erected a slaughter house near the steam mill. It might be well to say that the first packing done in the place was by Noble & Gayle in the winter of 1846-7. Gore & Gamble began business in the spring of 1854. The latter retired at the end of two years and Mr. Gore remained in trade till after the war.

The storekeepers and produce dealers in 1855 were W. Gayle & Co., A. Rife, Sheriff & Willett, B. P. Frick & Co., Gore & Gamble and P. T. Hughes. Three of these firms were doing the packing at the close of the year.

At this period goods were sold on long credit, a year's time. After a day of large sales hardly money enough could be found in the drawer to take the salesmen to a show. At the end of the year debtors settled their accounts by note. Many of these ran one, two and three years, and some are running yet. For ten years from 1850, when the population of the county was 5,300, the country east of Keithsburg, like all parts of the west, settled up rapidly. The settlers were generally men of small means, who depended upon the heavy dealers for money to make payments on their land, expecting and engaging to discharge these second obligations with their crops. It was the custom of Messrs. Gayle and Rife to advance large sums in this way, and they often took the risk of crippling their own credit by these accommodations. The necessities of trade also required that the more extensive tradesmen should buy their patrons' grain and hogs, and these two kinds of business, dissevered now, naturally fitted together then as parts of the same system. Accordingly the heavy merchants combined a warehouse and slaughtering business with merchandising.

A few statistics will show the growth and amount of business better than any other form of statement. From the first of October, 1850, to the first of October, 1851, the shipments of grain purchased here amounted to 169,366 bushels of wheat, corn and oats, besides some meat and other products. In the same time there were received 407½ tons of merchandise. February 24, 1852, 3,176 bushels of grain were taken in, "this being no more than an average day for the last ten. The receipts for the week ending the 28th exceeded 20,000 bushels."

During the packing season of 1854-5 there were slaughtered 6,852 hogs by the several packers, as follows: William Gayle & Co., 4,790; A. Rife, 1,064; J. A. Noble, 853; and W. H. Ungles, 145.

Between May 10 and June 14, 1856, there were shipped 48,231 pieces of bulk pork, 374 barrels of pork, 75 casks of hams, 344 sacks of hair and 250 sacks of potatoes. From May 10 to October 11 the aggregate amount of grain taken on board here (in addition to heavy shipments in April) reached 108,291 sacks, or 270,727 bushels. During the two weeks ending October 11 the shipments by the various firms were as follows: William Gayle & Co., 16,162 sacks; A. Rife, 10,284; B. P. Frick & Co., 3,536; W. H. Ungles, 7,018; and Sheriff & Willett, 2,054.



The largest single shipment ever made was 33,000 bushels of corn by William Gayle, in April of the present year (1882). The total receipts at this market between the opening of navigation in 1881 and the same time this year were 550,000 bushels.

The first shipment ever made from here was by Thomas B. Cabeen, March 25, 1842, and consisted of about 1,400 bushels of wheat in 437 barrels. The grain was raised by himself and his father in Ohio Grove township, and was transported by the steamer Huntsville, which was a week making the passage to St. Louis.

In 1855 Mr. Gayle erected the three-story brick structure, now the Larue House, on the corner of Main and Second streets, for a store, and the next year put up the addition on the west. The same year B. F. Gruwell built a three-story brick addition to his hotel on the corner of Main and Third streets where Whiting's store stands. The main part was also brick, and from September, 1850, until it became the property of Mr. Gruwell in 1852, it was conducted by H. G. Calhoun. The entire establishment was destroyed by fire in February, 1860.

Among the earlier and better residences we note as landmarks the first brick building in the place, the small house put up by Robert Keith in 1846, on Fourth street, adjoining the Commercial House; the wing of C. S. Orth's house by J. A. Noble in 1849, and the two-story front subsequently added by him; Gayle's in 1850-51; Ellett's in 1853; T. B. Cabeen's in 1854; Rife's in 1855, and Keith's new brick in 1856.

The Central House was built for a residence by Oliver Ross, in 1856, and next year it was enlarged by G. J. Ross. At one time it was the Beasley House.

The Commercial House was erected in 1849 by Matthew R. Patterson, for a private residence. In 1850 he conveyed it to S. S. Phelps, and then went to California, where he died. Seven years ago it was opened as a public house by the present proprietor, David N. Wolfe. He was born in Wayne county, Indiana, February 27, 1833, and is the son of Jacob and Mary (Yount) Wolfe. In 1852 he came to Mercer county, looking for a place for settlement. He soon returned to Indiana and made arrangements to remove and permanently inhabit this county, and in 1855 carried out this plan. His first location was in New Boston township, where he engaged in farming. In September, 1861, he enlisted in company G, 30th Ill. Inf., and carried a gun in his country's service nearly four years. After his "veteran" re-enlistment he was appointed second sergeant, but very soon was commissioned captain of his company by Gov. Yates. He was honorably mustered out of the army at Louisville. On his return he

began doing a mercantile business, but in a little while was compelled by loss of eyesight to abandon it. He went to Chicago for treatment, which resulted in partial recovery. Since 1875 he has been keeping the Commercial. On March 4, 1857, he was married to Miss Mary J., daughter of John and Sarah (Campbell) Willits. She was born in the same county that he himself was, October 17, 1833, and was brought to Mercer county in her infancy. Gertrude, Josephine and Sarah E. are their children.

The following list is believed to contain about all the tradesmen and mechanics whose length of residence or business importance entitles them to mention. The dates cover the term of their residence in the town; while many of them are exact, some are only approximately so, and a very few may be found wider still of the correct mark:

1838-82. J. J. Wordin.	1848-75. Francis Stebinger.
1839-49. David Bowen.	1848-80. B. D. Ellett.
1840-59. G. J. Ross.	1848-56. L. W. Thompson.
1840-77. C. C. Wordin.	1848-56. John S. Thompson.
1842-56. James Garner.	1848-81. B. C. Taliaferro.
1844-82. H. G. Calhoun.	1848. Richard Rice.
1845-6. J. B. Patterson.	1849-82. Mrs. E. Smith.
1845-50. Matthew R. Patterson.	1849-82. William D. Smith.
1845-82. T. B. Cabeen.	1849-73. Wilford J. Ungles.
1846-57. James Patterson.	1849-58. R. C. Cabeen.
1846-82. William Gayle.	1849-82. Thomas Freeman.
1846-62. James A. Noble.	1849-69. John C. Pepper.
1846-56. Jonathan Judah.	1849-82. James C. Stevens.
1846-82. H. G. Calhoun.	1850-56. John W. Noble.
1846. Mrs. J. A. Hubbell.	1850-54. James W. Doughty.
1846-82. Abraham Rife.	1850-58. John H. Marshall.
1846-82. William Willett.	1850-67. Joseph Harvey.
1846-79. Daniel Keith.	1850-82. Dr. E. L. Marshall.
1846-82. A. F. Glover.	1850-82. Dr. A. P. Willits.
1846-65. I. J. Mitchell.	1850-72. John T. Calhoun.
1846-51. Dr. S. S. Gruber.	1850-60. Truman Lord.
1847-8. E. F. Barstow.	1850-56. Thomas Morehead.
1847-8. Wm. R. Robinson.	1851-8. W. L. Matthews.
1847-82. A. B. Sheriff.	1851-2. R. H. Spicer.
1847-59. Levi Butterfield.	1852-3. William Hawkins.
1847-51. Dr. David Campbell.	1852-4. John W. Ditto.
1847-60. Dr. A. B. Campbell.	1852-6. J. C. Cabeen.
1847-68. N. B. Partridge.	1852-82. J. A. Swezy.



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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1852-62. David Harvey.            | 1857-68. John Beavens.       |
| 1852-68. J. S. Pinkerton.         | 1857-82. Jacob Wolf.         |
| 1852-60. Argilleous Swindler.     | 1858. M. B. Cox.             |
| 1852-82. B. F. Gruwell.           | 1858-82. Dennis Murto.       |
| 1853-73. C. C. Matlock.           | 1858-82. C. S. Orth.         |
| 1853-72. Philip Coonrod.          | 1858-66. John P. Reed.       |
| 1853-71. S. H. Redmon.            | 1858-63. C. P. Elder.        |
| 1853-82. Chas. J. Simpson.        | 1858-67. T. L. Greenhow.     |
| 1853-68. Josephus Wade.           | 1858-65. Margaret Hughes.    |
| 1853-78. R. M. Eddington.         | 1858-82. C. O'Leary.         |
| 1853-82. John Thomson.            | 1858-82. Jacob Wolf.         |
| 1853-82. R. C. Humbert.           | 1859-64. Alexander Holland.  |
| 1854-72. Philip Gore.             | 1859-72. O. Holland.         |
| 1854-64. M. J. O'Brien.           | 1859-82. Dr. Samuel Kelly.   |
| 1854-78. Dr. Joseph Ogden.        | 1859-82. John Kaufman.       |
| 1854-7. J. W. Elrick.             | 1859-82. E. Pritz.           |
| 1854-82. G. W. Whiting.           | 1859-82. Jacob Abraham.      |
| 1854-82. Thomas Souster.          | 1860-65. Washington Wolf.    |
| 1854-80. Walter J. Pepper.        | 1860-56. John F. Gurley.     |
| 1854-67. E. D. W. Coville.        | 1860-82. W. L. Range.        |
| 1854-82. Branson Brewer.          | 1860-82. George F. Parsons.  |
| 1855-63. P. T. Hughes.            | 1860-82. Hugh Campbell.      |
| 1855-82. B. P. Frick.             | 1861-82. William Kolkenbeck. |
| 1855-82. C. S. Frick.             | 1861-75. J. H. T. Madden.    |
| 1855-7. I. N. Bassett.            | 1862-6. C. W. Cilley.        |
| 1855-9. Richard Reese.            | 1862-82. Mrs. Isaac Manus.   |
| 1855-72. Joseph Thompson.         | 1862-4. Edwin S. Stockton.   |
| 1855-71. C. Lellyenberg.          | 1863-82. Joseph Venable.     |
| 1856-80. Andrew Frazier.          | 1863-70. William Home.       |
| 1856-69. S. M. Evans.             | 1864-79. Gilbert Brewer.     |
| 1856-82. J. C. Humphreys.         | 1864-82. P. Buford.          |
| 1856-82. C. A. Frick.             | 1864-82. W. Mellinger.       |
| 1856-82. Robert McKnight.         | 1864-73. C. W. Taliaferro.   |
| 1856-62. Luther T. Ball.          | 1864-82. Henry Mellinger.    |
| 1857-78. Dr. C. S. Hollingsworth. | 1864-82. David H. Wolfe.     |
| 1857-62. Thomas Hardin.           | 1865-82. William Dempster.   |
| 1857-70. L. A. Ender.             | 1865-82. Dr. E. Rathburn.    |
| 1857-60. Charles Eckly.           | 1865-82. C. A. Mertz.        |
| 1857-82. Benijah Lloyd.           | 1865-82. L. L. Mertz.        |
| 1857-60. Robert Gray.             | 1866-82. W. H. Phares.       |
| 1857-82. William L. Millman.      | 1866-82. A. H. Eby.          |
| 1857-82. William Deterline.       | 1867-76. Merrick A. Weaver.  |

1867-82. F. P. Burgett.	1875-82. C. G. Slocumb.
1868-82. James D. Clark.	1875-82. John Helwig.
1869-82. S. L. Long.	1879-82. G. B. Sapp.
1869-82. H. L. Long.	1880-82. John Dunn.
1870-82. Milton Anderson.	——82. Tom Marshall.

The third addition to the town, called Mechanics addition was laid off June 10, 1854, by J. B. Stockton. A. B. Sheriff laid out another November 5, 1855; Keith's third addition was platted May 21, 1861, and his fourth October 17, 1863; Ender and Stockton's October 26, 1863; and Ender's May 9, 1857. Upper Keithsburg, which is a mere hamlet, was surveyed on section 13 by C. S. Richey in the summer of 1857 for Johalon Tyler and T. B. Cabeen.

A man named Larue was the first blacksmith. James Heaton, who came in 1848, was the second. He burned his charcoal in Main street opposite Dennis Murto's present residence. Thomas Hendricks, O. C. Allen, and another by the name of Pierce were early smiths.

Wm. Brewer started the first cooper shop, and his place was taken by Philip Forward. Jacob Cooper had the next, and Nelson Green also worked some time at the trade.

The first barber was a man named Folder, who set up the striped pole in 1854.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

Owing to the reason that, with a single exception, files of Keithsburg newspapers have not been preserved, we are obliged to confess our inability to give a full account of the publishing business. As stated on a former page, Col. Patterson of the "Oquawka Spectator" introduced into his paper a Keithsburg department under the title of "Observer." This was begun October 16, 1850, and continued till the spring of 1856, when he was persuaded by the very liberal and confident promises of Mr. Keith and others to found the "Keithsburg Observer." He went to New York and purchased a press and office material at an outlay of \$1,300, and on April 23 issued the first number of his paper. Some five hundred patrons were enrolled on the subscription list—not more than half the number anticipated by the too sanguine promoters of the enterprise. Business men were liberal in advertising patronage, and after a useful existence of over a year under Col. Patterson, the paper, cleverly avoiding during that time partisan politics and religious dogmatisms, was sold by him to William R. Calhoon, the last issue under the original proprietorship being August 15, 1857. In the summer of 1858 Calhoon changed the title of the paper to "Mercer County Democrat," and at the same time changed it from an



independent to a democratic sheet. He was a good printer but bad financier, and this transition was one rather of necessity than of inclination, for he was from this time simply the publisher while the editorial columns were exclusively under the control of a committee. The paper now ceased measurably (and during the political canvass of that year, when the intellectual gladiators, "Honest Abe" and the "Little Giant," went up and down the state discussing momentous issues, absolutely), to be a medium for communicating local news and discussing home topics, and was an organ only for disseminating the doctrines of a party.

Sometime in 1859 the paper suspended, and on December 28 Mr. Calhoon began the publication of the "Northern Illinois Commercial" apparently, if not really, for a company which had furnished the funds for the establishment. This was short lived.

In June, 1860, "The Democratic Press" was started by V. B. Shouf, who continued the publication till he went to the army about the beginning of August 1861. The office was the property of the Hon. Thomas B. Cabeen.

Near the close of the year J. A. J. Birdsall and George D. B. Birdsall came to Keithsburg, and in the first week in January, 1862, revived the "Observer" without resurrecting the partisan features with which it went down. The former was the chief person, for we hear no more of his brother. Bating a constitutional want of steadiness and tenacity, Birdsall was above mediocrity in journalism, and he gave the new publication not only life and zest by infusing the spirit of his own energy and talent into it, but by his neutral course commanded the support of all classes, and his subscription list is said to have reached 1,200, the largest ever obtained by any Keithsburg paper. Unfortunately for his interests he was seized with the delusive ambition for office and engaged with his paper on the side of the democrats. For this service it is understood that he received his subsequent but fruitless nomination for the legislature. This swapping of a bird in the hand for two in the bush ruined his business, and he departed from the place poor. A. G. Lucas, a man of clerical antecedents, now took the vacant place at the beginning of September, 1865, and the paper was under his management until the same month next year, and during that time was run as a republican organ. Col. Isaac McManus succeeded Lucas, and throughout the exciting congressional campaign of that year it was edited with refreshing spirit and logical power. McManus' energy no less than his industry was unbounded, and whatever he did was done with fervent might. From the knowledge this writer had of his composition and character

he is not surprised to learn that his columns were stamped with the rough strength and active ability of his tireless brain. He was in control only six months when he sold his paper to Theodore Glancey, in whom there was a curious combination of youth and manhood, and who published what was regarded as a very sprightly paper. In March, 1870, he disposed of his office to an Iowa purchaser who moved it away; but early in September, 1871, he resumed the business and issued the first number of the "West End Kerana," which was afterward called simply "Kerana." He soon associated Henry Hurst with himself as partner, but this not turning out to be a felicitous arrangement, Hurst parted with his interest to Edward Thomas. In the spring of 1873 they sold the office and it was moved to other parts.

Some allusion to Mr. Glancey's life and sad end cannot be omitted in this place. He was a native of Mercer county and reared in Abington township, where the survivors of his father's family yet reside. On the breaking out of the war he enlisted as a private in company I, 17th Ill. Vol., and served till the expiration of his three years' term, and was mustered out as first lieutenant. Soon afterward, as already observed, he engaged in the newspaper business; and after its final relinquishment in Keithsburg, went to California where, in March, 1874, he became managing editor of the "Placer Argus." In 1880, he became editor-in-chief of the "Los Angeles Press," a republican organ, and in September of that year Clarence Gray, *alias* Maginiss, a man of dissolute reputation, republican candidate for district attorney, feeling himself aggrieved at Glancey's strictures upon his character, foully assassinated him when he was unarmed, without giving opportunity for defense. He lived nineteen hours, at times in great suffering, but conscious to the last and full of courage. His last words just before he expired were: "Tell my friends that I die like a man—die for principle; and that I would not go back on it now if I could." He was high-tempered, self-willed, pugnacious; but earnest, courteous and generous. Strong but honest in bias, he uttered his convictions with great boldness. Whatever opinions were ever formed of his methods, his sincerity was always unquestioned. He was a good speaker, and as a writer is said to have been one of the best on the country press.

About the first of April, 1874, W. C. Brown started the "Keithsburg News," but before the first year was up he sold to Taylor & Blackman. The latter died in September, 1876, and the following spring William H. Heaton bought the office from the Hon. T. B. Cabeen and C. A. Frick, and issued his first number May 17. This is a live paper,



abounding in reliable news, crisp and pungent paragraphs and editorials, temperate and wholesome in their tone, and it receives from the public solid support. It has been a greenback paper since Mr. Heaton became proprietor; and it is worthy of remark that he has been longer in the publishing business in Keithsburg than any other man who has attempted to conduct a paper in the place. Mr. Heaton is an easy, rapid, off-hand writer who culls from the mass of daily happenings with true journalistic care and judgment, and who brings to his aid in the profession a thoroughly practical knowledge of men and affairs. To be racy and entertaining he does not believe it necessary to be a scavenger, nor to be always squinting at the immoral side of things which he has the sagacity to see is relished only by a loose and depraved sentiment. His taste is not in this direction, nor does it run toward public criticism of private character. But to uphold the welfare of the community according to his judgment, and to encourage and defend all that is worthy, engages on his part the closest interest. To do this work he does not want for spirit or independence. In May of this year (1882) his paper was enlarged from a seven to an eight-column sheet, which may be taken as evidence of its growing prosperity. He is efficiently assisted by his wife, who is a fine specimen of healthful womanhood and a lady of education and great good sense. Recently he has associated her name with his own as co-editor.

Mr. Heaton was born November 13, 1828, on a farm in Clark county, Ohio, about ten miles east of Springfield. He was the second son of a family of twelve children, six boys and six girls. Of the boys John Heaton, of Red Bluff, California, and the subject of this notice are the only ones now living. The daughters are all married and mothers of children. William came with his father, James Heaton, to Illinois in 1836. He was given a good English education; he attended a high school in Paris, Illinois, two years, and though he was the youngest pupil enrolled he was too far advanced for the district school of that day. He learned with facility but always preferred hard work to hard study, which agreed better with his rather delicate constitution. He labored on a farm, taught school in the winter, clerked in dry goods and grocery stores; but these were not congenial to his love of out-door work, sport and exercise. In 1852, he and his father and brother George engaged in farming and buying raw prairie land in Henderson county. He broke prairie four years for himself and his neighbors; the two last years he worked twenty-eight head, or fourteen yoke of oxen, and used plows which cut a furrow thirty inches wide. In this way he paid for and improved a half section of land. He was married February 17, 1863, to Miss Millecent E. Davis, of Abingdon, Knox county, and



DANIEL MOWRY.





lived on the farm with his young wife five years. In 1868 he rented his farm and moved to Abingdon, and for two years was engaged in traveling for the Wier Plow Company, of Monmouth. Getting tired of being away from his family, he was persuaded to buy a newspaper office, which he did in 1870, and started a democratic paper which he called the "Knox County Democrat." With this enterprise he was very successful, but at the end of six years sold the office at a large advance on the cost of the same when new. He made arrangements to go to his brother, who was then in Texas engaged on a large scale in the stock business, and by whom he was advised that it was not safe to bring his children to that climate before the autumn season. He heeded this advice, and while waiting in the north was allured into purchasing a half interest in the Hannibal, Missouri, "Clipper," for which he paid \$3,000 down. In this office he spent most of his money in trying to keep the business and his partner out of debt. In April, 1877, he and his wife visited his aged father and mother, at Keithsburg, and while here was induced to purchase the "Keithsburg News," which had been taken on a debt. He went forthwith to Hannibal and sold his interest in the "Clipper" office to his partner, taking promissory notes which he still holds. Under his management the "News" has been a successful venture; not a dollar is owing on the office, and the paper has just been enlarged. Through the indefatigable energy of Mrs. Heaton, they have purchased a small farm a mile northeast of the town, on the Aledo road, and christened it "The Wilderness." Here they live in domestic enjoyment with their six happy, sprightly and intelligent children, who read and work, and bless and enliven the home of their parents. It gives us pleasure to say that no happier household exists in all the land. Mrs. Heaton keeps her husband's books and writes most of his correspondence, and he holds that her help is invaluable. In his judgment every newspaper man ought to marry an intelligent wife and give her his entire confidence—a sentiment which does honor to both head and heart of its author.

The "Keithsburg Times," an independent weekly, was established by Richard Wolfe and H. C. Cook, the first number being issued June 8, 1881. December 23d Mr. Cook withdrew, and the publication of the paper was continued by Mr. Wolfe until its suspension, April 12, 1882. The latter, son of Washington and Rebecca (Marlott) Wolfe, is a native of this county, was born in 1852, and reared a tiller of the soil. His parents emigrated from Wayne county, Indiana, to Mercer county subsequently to 1840. From 1861 to 1866 he lived in Keithsburg; in 1872 he matriculated at Hedding College, where he was in attendance



one year, and since that time he has taught school irregularly. In 1875 he began reading law in the office of B. C. Taliaferro and studied the required time, but has never been admitted.

R. S. Scudder brought the "Keithsburg Independent" here in March, 1880, and kept it alive about six months. It was printed by the "Burlington Hawkeye."

#### SCHOOLS.

It was many years from the first settlement before any educational progress had been made. Settlers were few, everything was in a rough state, all improvements had to be supplied by slow and hard toil; ground broken up, timber felled, cabins built, fences made; so that rigid muscle was the first demand, while little use was found for books, and pictures, and teachers.

But the schoolmaster came at last, and his dominion has grown more powerful than church and more extensive than state. The beginnings were of the feeblest character. One term in a year was thought to be a good achievement, and indeed it was for the frontier; but who would think of calling this the frontier as late as 1847 or 1848? Fifteen years had elapsed since the Black Hawk war. Children had passed the school age in that time. Does it not seem to our young friends that it must have been a gloomy era? We dare say that it was not less joyous than the present. Wants were fewer then than now, and the greater number of to-day are not more easily satisfied. Then they were supplied without vexation, because they were mostly natural; but now they are gratified with sensible, if not painful, effort, for the reason that they are largely artificial. Intellectual attainments cost something; physical power is the gift of nature. In the former time hewers of wood and drawers of water were of the first station, economically, for they accomplished that which was the chief necessity—material development. Education was less valued when bone and sinew held sway, but mind has taken the throne of power, and skilled labor and intelligent machinery, to use a figure, have driven blind force into the rayless gloom beneath the feet of the majority. Acquirements which mean cost to the possessor, the world demands of him with all ease. Hence the multiplication of wants and the sharper struggle.

At first there was little public money, and schools were maintained by subscription. In this township the school section, number 16, was surveyed and classified with the swamp lands. It was but a fractional tract, and the trustees made a selection on section 9, but did not get the

quota to which the township was entitled. It was all timber land and was sold in small lots varying in price from \$2.50 to \$10 per acre.

“Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,  
To teach the young idea how to shoot.”

The first school in Keithsburg was taught in a log cabin on the lot now occupied by C. S. Orth's house. This was in the summer of 1846, and Thomas Libby was the teacher. Isaac Bliss taught next in 1847 in a vacant cabin in Robert Keith's dooryard. The third pedagogue was John Heaton, who had a school in 1848 in a small frame house on the site of Dennis Murto's residence. He taught also in 1849. Mrs. Lucretia Freeman opened a small school in the summer of that year in the brick building belonging to Mrs. Isaac McManus.

The first school-house was a brick structure built in 1849 on lot 3, block 13, the site of the present Methodist parsonage. John C. Pepper, who had just arrived, and was preparing for the bar, was employed to teach. He filled three terms and yielded the post to Isaac N. Smith, who was at the head of the school through the following winter, and was assisted by Mrs. Freeman. Harvey Senter was the principal from the fall of 1851 to 1855. He was an instructor of excellent capabilities, ingenious in resource, practical in method, untiring in effort, sharp in discipline, and a splendid arithmetician. He died in Aledo a few years ago. N. P. Brown took his place and taught the last term in the old school-house. This building had been erected by private subscription on a lot donated to the public by Robert Keith so long as it should be used for school purposes. The donor deferred the conveyance till suit was brought to compel such performance, but on his promise to execute a deed the action was withdrawn; still he failed to carry out the agreement, and afterward sold the property to the Methodists.

The main part of the present building was erected, as near as we can learn, in 1856, and was dedicated by Warren Shedd, who was principal about two years. He served in the war of the rebellion as colonel of the 30th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. His death in Montana occurred in 1881. No records of this distant period can be found, and the recollections of men fail at this point.

T. C. Swafford, of New Boston, a printer by trade, was principal in the year 1862-3. He died in the profession at Oneida, Knox county, in 1878. Isaac McManus taught about 1867. The principalship has been held by the following persons: William A. Wray, 1869-70; John P. Chowning, 1870-71; C. W. Searles, 1871-2; W. H. Farris, 1872-3; E. H. Jamison, 1873-6; William A. Griffin, 1876-80; B. V. Leonard, 1880-81; William A. Willits, 1881-2. I. Cook Brisbin and



Philip Weaver were teachers of good reputation in the lower departments in the long ago, prior to the war. Rebecca Weaver and Josie L. Calhoun taught several years in succession at a later period. Of the present teachers Miss J. Hannah Willits presides over the grammar department, and has been connected with the school as teacher nearly twenty years. Miss Julia Willett is employed in the first intermediate, Miss Mary Thomson in the second, Miss Alice Sheriff in the third, and R. W. Kile in the primary. Mr. Kile commenced in the school in 1865, and since 1870 has been continuously employed. He first began teaching in Ohio in 1846. In the spring of 1850 he emigrated to this town, and has taught until the present time without intermission, excepting three years when he was fighting the battles of his country.

The school-house is a strong, two-story brick edifice, with low ceilings, but apartments that are models of neatness and taste. They are all seated with patent furniture and heated with Snead's school room heater and ventilator, and supplied with necessary charts and apparatus of approved kinds. The main part is 30×56 feet on the foundation, and the wing in the rear, built in 1875, is 26×36 feet in dimension. The location is on block 7, second addition. This is the best school building in Mercer county. Under its efficient management for several years past the school has taken a rank inferior to no other of similar grade anywhere.

In Keithsburg select schools have flourished with no common success, and their number has not been small. As far back as the autumn of 1855 a Miss Mulky opened a female seminary in Apollo Hall. She retired from the work at the close of the spring term of 1857. The Misses Todd immediately organized the Keithsburg Seminary, but it is not known how long it was continued. The sessions were held in the Methodist church. The Rev. C. M. Wright started the Mercer Female College in 1863, in the Orth house, subsequently occupying the Masonic building. Late in 1864 the reverend educator was commissioned chaplain of the 102d Ill. reg., on the request of the rank and file, and at once departed for his new field of labor. He was very ably assisted by the Misses Mary W. Evans and Emily J. Whitlock, from Pennsylvania, and probably by Miss Louisa B. Gass. The first two ladies remained in charge of the school after Wright's withdrawal, and the institution was kept up about three years. J. S. McMillan, another tutor of rare qualification, gave instruction there immediately after, and Miss Gass kept select schools in the same place. Mrs. Lou Kessel also taught several schools of the same class. Five or six years ago W. P. Allen had a business school in Apollo Hall. These do not comprise all, but are the principal ones. The veteran

pedagogue, Rezin W. Kile, has organized and taught numerous "pay schools." These private schools have usually been well patronized.

Until recently this township was divided into but two districts. It now contains three, and will likely remain without important change for a long time. District No. 2 extends from east to west across the north part of the township and is two miles wide north and south. No. 3 embraces sections 14, 24, part of 23, including Upper Keithsburg, and all of 13, except the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , which, with sections 25 and 36, is attached to Abington for school purposes. The rest of the township constitutes No. 1, having Keithsburg in the center. District No. 3 was formed from No. 1, after a long and determined contest. The first effort for a division was made about eight years ago. A vote had been taken on the question of authorizing a bonded debt to enlarge the school-house in Keithsburg, and was adversely decided. As soon as the movement for a division was begun the opportunity was seized by those favoring the extension (which was seriously needed) to obtain the necessary authority by election. As the law then stood a district with a bonded debt could not be dismembered. Before the inhabitants in the proposed district began the agitation, the want of more room in the school building was not apparent to the majority. As soon as a separation was seriously attempted it was instantly recognized with sweeping unanimity. The debt was made and the addition built. The matter slumbered some two years, then the petitioners revived it, on the technical failure of the board of trustees to follow the exact requirements of the law concerning the registration of the bonds. The trustees denied their prayer, and the subject was allowed to rest. In the meantime the law was changed so as to permit a division of bonded districts and an apportionment of their liabilities. In 1880 the struggle was renewed. Some additions to the number of pupils had been made in the dissatisfied territory, and the bounds were now extended by the petitioners, enlarging the proposed district. They went to work this time with every advantage in their favor. The trustees again rejected their claims. The case went to the county superintendent on appeal. The application was successful. But before proceedings could be taken upon the order of the superintendent, an injunction was served upon the trustees and treasurer, restraining them from any action in the premises until the question should come before the circuit court of Mercer county for review. Here the decision of the superintendent was sustained. An appeal was next carried to the appellate court, sitting in Ottawa, and on February 28, 1881, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed. This victory was followed by the election of directors for the new district on March 19. These were H. S. Scott, David Pardee and



O. A. Wilson. The enumeration of scholars at this time was fifty-seven. A school-house was straightway built at an expense of \$700.

#### RELIGION.

Preaching in Keithsburg was of irregular occurrence until near 1850. Several persons are mentioned as having held meetings before that time, but it was individual rather than organized work that was done. The Rev. Vail was probably the earliest Presbyterian, and the Rev. Crittenden was another who visited this locality at a somewhat later date. He was here in 1849, and very likely before and after. The Rev. Gregg, Universalist, held early meetings. Various Methodist ministers came to lead the hearts of men, but the names of most of them, no doubt, are lost. The Rev. Kirkpatrick is remembered, and the local preachers, Thomas L. Doughty, of New Boston, and James Ross, a United Brethren, of this township. The last two are best known, for they were a part of the people and their ministry covered longer periods. Services took place wherever a room could be found that would accommodate the small audiences. After 1845 Willett's warehouse was used; in 1849 the old brick school-house was built, and then resort was had to that; and in 1851 the court-house was finished, when that also was occupied for the same purpose.

The first Sunday school in Keithsburg, except one as early as 1844, in the cooper shop on block 13, corner of Main and Seventh streets, was started in August, 1849, and was founded and taught by John Heaton and Mrs. Lucretia Freeman. About two dozen little boys and girls were regular attendants. After thirty years' improvement in everything else, the editor of the "News" says "this was the best behaved school we were ever in, and was a complete success." They met from Sabbath to Sabbath on the lot where Dennis Murto's house is situated. In the spring of 1850 another school was organized in the brick school-house. Uncle John Kile was the superintendent, and W. H. Heaton secretary. At that day Mrs. Thomas Hiatt was the only Methodist living in the town, but a few months later the number was advanced to two by the arrival of Col. George S. Pierce. Within two miles of town were John Wilson, James Gibson, B. L. Hardin, John Kile and John Eckley, all Methodists. These could not always attend, so it became necessary to reorganize the school, and W. L. Mathews was chosen superintendent, and B. C. Cabeen taught the bible class. Of the ladies, Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Freeman, and Mrs. Hiatt were active workers. The young ladies were: Maggie and Emma Ungles, Mary Jane Mount, Maria Heaton, Mary Pie, and three by the name of Williamson. The singing, which J. W.

Doughty led in splendid style, was excellent, and, according to testimony, has not since been excelled in Keithsburg. The present editor of the "News," writing of this school, says: "Uncle John Kile did the praying for the school when he was there. In his absence, the superintendent or secretary read from the scriptures, and a hymn was sung. We had a committee on attendance, and if a scholar or teacher was not in his or her place, next Sunday he or she was called on, and a reason had to be given and reported for absence. . . . We will remark that this school, for two years, was not under the auspices of any church, yet it embraced about all the children in the town."

The first circuit preaching was begun in the autumn of 1849 by the Rev. Pierce T. Rhodes, who was on the New Boston circuit and held meetings every two weeks. He was a man of too much business energy and capacity to fail to work up an interest favorable to the building of a meeting-house, and therefore we find that in the fall of 1851 a brick church was erected on the northwest corner of block 13, original plat, at a cost of some \$1,600. It was not entirely finished and plastered till 1853. The Rev. Chandler, of Peoria, conducted the dedicatorial services. The Rev. C. M. Wright came shortly after, and superseded Rhodes. From this time to 1860 the history of the church is a blank. In that year Keithsburg, which had heretofore belonged to the New Boston circuit, was erected into a separate one. Mr. B. L. Hardin furnishes a list of pastors from 1860, and we use it as it comes to our hands, although it does not complete the period by one year: Job Mills, two years; — Steward, two years; C. M. Wright, one year; J. L. Phares, one year; — Stafford, one year; G. W. Brown, one year; J. Winsor, one year; S. Brink, three years; A. R. Morgan, two years; L. B. Dennis, one year; J. Smith, two years; Richard Haney, one year; G. W. Martin, one year; C. B. Couch, one year; and the present minister, H. S. Humes, who came upon this charge in the conference year 1881-2.

About 1856 the society purchased from Robert Keith the old brick school-house; the walls they partly tore down and rebuilt for a parsonage on the original foundation.

The Rev. Stephen Brink conducted a great revival in 1871 and added over one hundred to the membership. He was a very popular preacher and successful revivalist, and taking the movement in the church at its highest tide led the society at once into building their present imposing edifice. This was done in the year 1872. The site was purchased from Bennett Hurst for \$1,300 and the old church was taken by him in payment of \$100. John McH. Wilson, B. L. Hardin, Dr. C. S. Hollingsworth, Merrick A. Weaver and William Gayle were



the building committee. The entire cost was \$10,000. Chaplain McCabe dedicated it on the 29th of October, and on this occasion \$3,715 were subscribed. Over \$550 were never collected; a loan of \$300 had been obtained from the church extension fund; these amounts with interest brought the society in time into debt for \$1,300. A new subscription was raised in 1880 and this was paid off. The church is a two-story frame 38×60 feet on the ground. There are 140 members enrolled, and the condition of the society is good. The Sabbath school, with H. L. Long as superintendent almost consecutively for twelve years, has an average of over 100 scholars. Some of the oldest and most active members have been John McH. Wilson, John Nevius and B. L. Hardin. The two first have gone to try the reality of the faith they professed.

The first Presbyterian minister who settled and lived in Keithsburg was the Rev. Smith. This was before the church was finished. A number of persons of this faith having their membership in the Pope Creek church in Ohio Grove township, in 1854 enclosed the house they now own, but were not able to finish it for use until three years afterward. May 2, 1857, the present society was organized with twenty-eight members, and was named the "First Presbyterian Church of Keithsburg." Joseph P. Wycoff and Paul Sheriff were elected ruling elders, and Dr. I. N. Anderson deacon. Two days after, Paul Sheriff, A. B. Sheriff and Harvey Senter were chosen trustees. The Rev. E. K. Lynn was the first to supply the church after the organization; he preached half the time for one year. The Rev. Samuel Hart commenced his labors in the spring of 1858 and ministered to the church till September 2, 1862. During this period twenty-six members were added. The Rev. H. Hanson came as stated supply November 2d, and ended his pastorate ten years afterward, November 1, 1872. The church was increased during this time by the reception of eighty-four members. From the last date until October 15, 1873, only occasional supplies filled the pulpit, but at this time the Rev. John L. Martyn commenced his ministrations as regular pastor. He was superseded October 15, 1876, by the Rev. J. E. Williamson. The latter gave place, October 16, 1879, to the Rev. Thomas Hicklin, who remained one year. There was no stated supply again until the present occupant of the pulpit, the Rev. R. H. Fulton, commenced his labors in September, 1881. In December, 1859, Philip Gore was elected deacon. November 30, 1862, Dr. I. N. Anderson was elected, ordained and installed a ruling elder. He was removed by death January 22, 1863. Dr. Samuel Kelly was elected ruling elder March 13, 1869, and ordained next day. Calvin S. Orth and W. S. Home

were elected and ordained deacons on the same days. George S. Wolf was elected a ruling elder December 16, 1876, and was installed next day, the usual form of ordination being dispensed with as unnecessary for the reason that he had been an elder in the Reformed church. In 1866 an American church organ was placed in the church; in the winter of 1867-8 a new bell was hung in the steeple; October 25, 1871, the society paid \$100 for five Gothic chairs and a marble-top communion table; March 15, 1872, a new communion service was purchased at an expense of \$65; and in 1875 the church was renovated at an outlay of \$1,000. The building is 36×54 feet, built of brick, graceful without and tasteful within, where it is cheery and agreeable, without any of that air of the dungeon so common in houses of this description. The number of members is forty-five. An organized Sunday school is maintained.

St. Mary's Catholic church comprises in its membership not fewer than fifty families. Mass was celebrated in this place over thirty years ago, but the people had no regular pastor until Father Lorimer, of Monmouth, established stated services in 1865. He continued in charge of the parish until the Rev. R. P. O'Neill came in 1867. Under the pastorate of the latter funds were raised, and in 1869 a house of worship was enclosed and subsequently finished. The Rev. Bowles came next after Father O'Neill and remained until 1872, and was succeeded by Father Halpin, who was followed in 1875 by Father O'Farrell. The first priest to settle in the parish was the Rev. Weldon, who arrived in 1877, and in October began the erection of the parsonage. This stands on Thirteenth street, adjoining the church, and was finished the following spring and furnished at a total cost of \$2,000. The Rev. C. F. O'Neill took charge of this society in 1879 and was replaced the same year by the Rev. William McKenna, who ministered until early in 1882, when the Rev. B. H. Corley took his place. The church is situated in the southeast part of the town, in Sheriff's addition, on land one-half of which was donated by T. B. Cabeen. It is cruciform, 24×72 feet in the main part, with a transept 24×56, and was built at a cost of about \$6,000. This property is vested in the bishop of the diocese, according to the custom and laws of this church. In the early history of the society services were held in the old courthouse and at the residence of Dennis Murto.

The Rev. Bernard H. Corley, present pastor, was born in Providence, Rhode Island, March 11, 1855, and is the son of Michael and Elizabeth (McCaron) Corley. His father is a mixer of colors used in printing calicoes, and resides in Providence, where the mother of Father Corley died March 4, 1882. He was educated at the Jesuit



college of St. Mary at Montreal, and at the Ottawa University, of Canada, and finished his studies at the latter institution. His ordination took place at Peoria, Illinois, in June, 1879, and he at once became assistant pastor at Bloomington, where he remained one year. He was next called to the pastorate of Lewiston, from whence he went to Monmouth as assistant, and in the present year was settled over this parish.

The United Brethren society in Keithsburg, now dissolved, was formed in the winter of 1849-50, and was the first of this denomination in the county. The original members were St. Clair Ross and wife, James Goldsberry and wife, a Mr. Mapes and wife, and a few others. The pastors were: J. L. Condon, 1849-51; O. F. Smith, 1851-3; B. Wagner, 1853-4; P. W. Knowles, 1854-6; G. W. Keller, 1856-7; Rev. Weaver, 1857-8; D. F. Bear, 1858-9; J. W. C. Toll and P. Watts, 1859-60; D. Stanley, 1860-62; J. B. Speaks, 1862-3; St. Clair Ross, 1863-5; Rev. Bugby, 1865-6; E. Godfrey, 1866-7; B. Wagner, 1867-9; O. F. Smith, from 1869 to the spring of 1872, A. Shesler finishing the conference year; B. Wagner, 1872-4; A. G. Smith, 1874-5; S. P. Davis and A. A. Wolf, 1875-6; Z. Pease, 1876-8; Percival Spurlock, 1878-9; O. O. Smith, 1879-81; and A. Worman, the present pastor on the charge, who occasionally preaches to the few unorganized members of the old society. About 1857 the erection of a church was begun, but the house was not completed until four years afterward. It is a low brick, 36×50 feet, now beginning to show signs of decay.

A Christian society was organized here about 1856, but traveling preachers of this denomination stopped here and held services, beginning some years earlier. The Rev. Davidson, of Monmouth, was the main dependence of these people at first. Others well remembered were the Shortridges, Revs. Wallace, Moses B. Warren and W. B. Fisk. The latter was here three or four years, and it was in his pastorate that the unused church standing in the east part of the town was built. This was done in 1866. The Rev. J. B. Royal occupied the pulpit about ten years ago.

#### FARMERS' BANK.

This institution began business in Keithsburg in April, 1871, as the Farmers' National Bank, with a capital of \$50,000, and was the second bank ever organized in Mercer county, and the only one under the national banking act. The stockholders are William Drury, F. P. Burgett, T. B. Cabeen, R. J. Cabeen, John Seaton, Hiram Burgett, B. P. Frick, Thomas S. Flack, C. S. Orth, Mrs. Julia H. Frick, and

Mrs. Vashti Drury. William Drury, one of the wealthiest and most valued citizens of Mercer county, has been president from the beginning, and Hon. Thomas B. Cabeen, of Keithsburg, vice-president. C. S. Orth was the first cashier. In 1874 the capital was doubled, and the same year Mr. Orth resigned and was succeeded by F. P. Burgett, who had been connected with the bank from the first opening, as assistant cashier. On January 1, 1880, the charter was surrendered, and the bank became a private corporation. It passed through the crisis of 1873 without shock, and its integrity and reputation rest upon a firm basis.

Mr. Cabeen is of Irish lineage. His grandfather, Thomas Cabeen, had seven sons and two daughters born and reared in Ireland, and who emigrated to this country at different times, and settled in various localities. His father, Samuel Cabeen, crossed the Atlantic in 1808 and had his home first in Pennsylvania, where he married Miss Elizabeth P. Wright. In 1815 he removed to Muskingum county, Ohio. In 1836 these parents with their five sons, Thomas, Joshua, Samuel, Robert, and Richard, removed to Mercer county and improved a home in Ohio Grove township. The father died at his residence, May 1, 1856, when sixty-eight years of age. He was a man of good talents and natural Irish wit and versatility; his conversation was intelligent and sparkling and always enlivened with appropriate quotations from his favorite poet Burns. Mr. Thomas B. Cabeen was born December 15, 1815; he learned the carpenter's trade, and for the first dozen years that he lived in Mercer county was employed at that useful occupation. In conjunction with Abram B. Sheriff he built the first frame house south of Pope creek; in 1845 he did some of the first carpenter work in Keithsburg, and the next year the joiner work on the first brick house in the place, which was owned by Robert Keith. He and Mr. Sheriff built under contract the first court-house in Mercer county, for which they received about \$1,400. It was begun March 6, 1839, and was finished the same year. This was situated at Millersburg: a two-story frame, still standing. During the time that Mr. Cabeen was chiefly engaged at his trade he also improved a farm of 160 acres in Ohio Grove township. He settled in Keithsburg in 1845, and from 1847 to 1848 he was a clerk for the firm of Noble & Gayle; in the latter year he gave up his position with that firm to accept the office of clerk of the circuit court, which he filled with satisfaction until 1856. In 1862 he was elected by the democrats to the lower house of the general assembly to represent the counties of Mercer and Henderson. For over thirty years Mr. Cabeen has been a prominent business man of his county, and has been most of that time largely interested in real



estate transactions. He owns 2,000 acres of valuable land besides a large amount of town property. He celebrated his nuptials with Miss Lucy, daughter of William and Sarah (McHerron) Wilson, on June 26, 1849. She was a native of Danville, Pennsylvania; and her father's family removed to Mercer county about 1837. Mr. Cabeen's children have been: William S., Sarah E., and Boyd W. The last died in infancy. William was married in 1881 to Miss Lou Dempster, and Sarah is now the wife of Thomas A. Marshall. Mr. Cabeen's mother died December 6, 1874, ripe in years.

Mr. Frederick P. Burgett, cashier, was born in Hartland, Windsor county, Vermont, April 24, 1839, and is the oldest child of Hiram and Charlotte (Willard) Burgett. In 1851 he emigrated with his parents to Ellisville, Fulton county, Illinois, and lived there till 1859; in that year he went to Nashville, Tennessee, and remained there till 1864, clerking in the principal hotels. In 1867 he came to Keithsburg and at once engaged in selling dry goods; after two years he changed to lumber and was in that business the same length of time; then in 1871 he assisted in organizing the Farmers' National Bank and became assistant cashier. Since 1875 Mr. Burgett has owned a well improved farm of 800 acres ten miles southeast of Keithsburg, mostly in pasture and meadow, and devoted to stock-raising. He regards ample and comfortable shelter as indispensable to the profitable rearing of domestic animals, and purposes to improve his place with barns and sheds to furnish sufficient housing for all the stock that his large farm can support. He is introducing improved strains of blood into his cattle; and as a favorite scheme of breeding he is giving special attention to rearing a distinctive type of horses which shall combine the qualities of roadster and draft horse and produce a class useful, and even superior, for all purposes. Mr. Burgett is a Mason and a republican. In 1880 he was a delegate to the republican state convention at Springfield, and was elected a delegate under the unit rule to the republican national convention at Chicago; but he and his associate appointees were not seated by the latter body. December 20, 1867, he was married to Miss Mary J., daughter of the late B. D. Ellett, Esq. Her father was an early settler in Mercer county, having begun a home in New Boston township in 1839. Mr. and Mrs. Burgett have four children: Grace, Bessie, Louis O., and Kate.

Mr. Cornelius O'Leary, book-keeper and assistant cashier, was born in the city of Cork, Ireland, March 25, 1826. In 1848 he emigrated to this country, arriving in New York on the 19th of June. He came directly to Wisconsin and became employed in the pineries, transacting business principally for Francis Biron of Grand Rapids, Wisconsin,

until 1858, in which year he arrived at Keithsburg with a raft of lumber. Having disposed of that he associated himself with B. D. Ellett in the lumber trade; and excepting the time that he was absent in the army, he was in company with Mr. Ellett until 1869. Immediately on the first call of President Lincoln for troops, in April, 1861, he enlisted in company I, 17th reg. Ill. Vol., and was appointed first sergeant. He fought at Fredericktown, Missouri, at Fort Donelson, and at Shiloh, and in the last engagement commanded his company; he was in the siege of Corinth, and after that returned with his regiment to Bolivar, Tennessee, where he was discharged October 29, 1862. In 1869 he built a store and a residence in Keithsburg, and was in the grocery trade a year; from 1871 to 1876 he made several changes in business: was first manufacturing plows with W. C. Taliaferro, then wagons with H. Campbell; a part of the time was in Wisconsin, and the last year and a half was running a steamer on the Missouri river. In May, 1876, he came into the Farmers' Bank as book-keeper and assistant cashier, and has been steadily engaged in this position since November, 1880. He was united in marriage with Miss Roxanna De Haven April 29, 1869, and by this union three children have been born: Margaret, Arthur, and Richard. Mr. O'Leary has been town trustee three terms, and is now treasurer.

#### ORGANIZATIONS.

Robert Burns Lodge, No. 113, A.F.A.M., was organized under dispensation in 1850, and the first meeting was held on the 19th of November. Thomas Freeman, was master; A. C. Adams, senior warden; W. J. Ungles, junior warden; James Gibson, senior deacon; Wyman Parker, Daniel Winslow and Hiram Mills, from New Boston, completed the organization. Petitions were received from I. N. Anderson, H. G. Calhoun, R. C. Cabeen, and Truman Lord. The charter was issued October 7, 1851, to Thomas Freeman, Alexander C. Adams, Wilford J. Ungles, and James Gibson. The lodge was constituted under the charter November 24, by Gov. William McMurtry, of Henderson, deputy grand master. In 1855 a two-story brick building, 20×50 feet, was erected by the lodge on Washington street at a cost of \$1,900. The contractors and builders were John Dunn and Jahalon Tyler. The hall, which is neatly furnished and decorated with emblematic charts, is one of the best in Mercer county. Communications are on Friday nights on or before the full moon of each month. The officers for the current year (1882) are R. C. Humbert, W.M.; Ira Jay, S.W.; H. Pratt, J.W.; W. H. Phares, T.; A. F. Glover, S.; Samuel Kelly, C.; E. J. Glancy, S.D.; W. B. Phillips, J.D.; J. J. Hawkins, S.S.;



W. H. Heaton, J.S.; Wm. P. Strong, M.; Ben. Lloyd, T. The lodge has enjoyed a healthy growth and useful and prosperous existence. The number of members at present is 44.

Illinois Chapter No. 17, A.F.A.M., was chartered in 1854, Robert Keith, Thomas D. Cabeen, and R. Cyrus Cabeen being granted powers to organize. The first meeting took place August 9, 1853, and the chapter was instituted by Harmon G. Reynolds, acting as grand high priest. A steady career of prosperity marks the whole history of this organization. Meetings are held on Wednesday night before the full moon of each month in the Masonic building. This chapter owns a one-third interest in that property. Present officers: C. A. Mertz, H.P.; T. H. Freeman, K.; J. J. Hawkins, S.; A. F. Glover, S.; W. H. Phares, T.; R. C. Humbert, C.H.; H. G. Calhoun, P.S.; T. B. Cabeen, R.A.C.; L. L. Mertz, M.T.V.; C. A. Frick, M.S.V.; W. Hadley, M.F.V.; Benjamin Lloyd, T. An efficient working membership of 37.

Mercer Lodge, No. 210, I.O.O.F., was instituted July 29, 1856, by W. B. Linel under dispensation issued by P. A. Armstrong, grand master. The first elective officers were M. J. O'Brien, N.G.; L. W. Thompson, V.G.; J. Scott Pinkerton, R.S.; J. N. Shoemaker, P.S.; Thomas Stephenson, T. When the organization took place applications for membership were received from William M. Glover, John Weidner, Erastus Thompson, and O. C. Richardson; all these were favorably reported upon and elected, and the first two were initiated at this meeting. October 17, 1856, a charter was granted to M. J. O'Brien, Thomas Stephenson, M. P. Rippey, L. W. Thompson, J. S. Pinkerton, J. N. Shoemaker, and Ferdinand Davis. The number of initiates is 201, and 44 have been admitted by card, making a total of 245, including a present membership of 68. The amount paid out for charity is \$1,136. Meetings of the lodge are on Tuesday evenings at their pleasant and well-furnished hall on Main street. This building was purchased about 1871 for \$1,000, and rebuilt in 1873 at a cost of \$700. The present officers are W. A. Willard, N.G.; Lemon Dewitt, V.G.; P. Q. Nestle, Sec.; Thomas Souster, Treas. H. H. Pratt is the representative to the grand lodge.

Mercer Encampment No. 89, composed at present of 22 contributing members, was instituted by J. Ward Ellis, past grand master, of Chicago, April 26, 1875. The first officers were T. S. Cummins, C.P.; W. H. Phares, H.P.; G. W. Whiting, S.W.; Paul Q. Nestle, J.W.; J. H. T. Madden, Scribe; Edward Rathburn, Treas. A charter was issued to this encampment October 10, 1876, and the following brethren

are named in it: T. S. Cummins, W. H. Phares, G. W. Whiting, J. H. T. Madden, Paul Q. Nestle, E. Rathburn, G. W. Ditto, D. M. Halsted, M. G. Rice, C. S. Frick, H. Stancer, G. K. Beard, Jacob Abrahams, Joseph Venable, Fred. Nagle, T. J. Moffatt. The last nine of these were the earliest initiates, and were admitted at the first meeting. Present officers: T. S. Cummins, C.P.; John Helwig, H.P.; J. S. Allen, S.W.; T. A. Marshall, J.W.; H. H. Pratt, Scribe: W. H. Phares, Treas. Both lodge and encampment are in a highly satisfactory condition.

Mary Burns Chapter, No. 24, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized by D. W. Thompson, and chartered July 31, 1872, with 30 members. Mrs. Rose A. Cumby was Worthy Matron; W. P. Strong, Worthy Patron; and F. B. Stout, Secretary. C. A. Mertz represented the chapter in the convention held in Chicago November 6, 1875, to institute a grand chapter of the order for Illinois, and he was elected deputy grand patron of the organization. The grand chapter having been formed, Mary Burns Chapter surrendered its original charter, number 118, and accepted the one under which it is now working. The organization has a healthy membership of nearly 60 persons, and holds its regular meetings in Masonic hall on every Thursday evening before the full moon. The present elective officers are C. A. Mertz, W.P.; Mrs. A. B. Mertz, W.M.; Mrs. Lillie Glancy, A.M.; Miss Sue Calhoun, C.; Miss Hattie Jay, A.C.; Mrs. Millicent Heaton, S., Miss Agnes Jay, T.

The Keithsburg Thespian Club, a dramatic association, was organized January 10, 1863, and has been in existence until the present time, though of late years it has not been before the public with regular performances. It has always been composed of some of the most respectable ladies and gentlemen of Keithsburg, and has given numerous entertainments abroad, consisting of both comedy and tragedy. The first president, or manager, was G. F. Gurley; William H. Ungles was secretary at the same time, and C. S. Orth, treasurer. Besides these officers, the earlier members were: G. W. Whiting, M. J. O'Brien, C. O'Leary, J. O. Butler, C. C. Matlock, W. D. Smith and G. F. Parsons. The first ladies connected with the club were: Mrs. R. C. Cabeen, Mrs. Matlock, and the Misses Fanny M. Sheriff, Mary J. Holland, Rebecca Frick and Kittie Ellett.

Among those who came into the organization afterward were: J. B. Holland, Joshua Willits, R. C. Humbert, Henry Mellinger, G. K. Beard, T. S. Cummins, F. P. Burgett, Dr. A. P. Willits, Mrs. J. O. Butler, Misses Emma Willits and Emma Swezey, C. A. Frick,



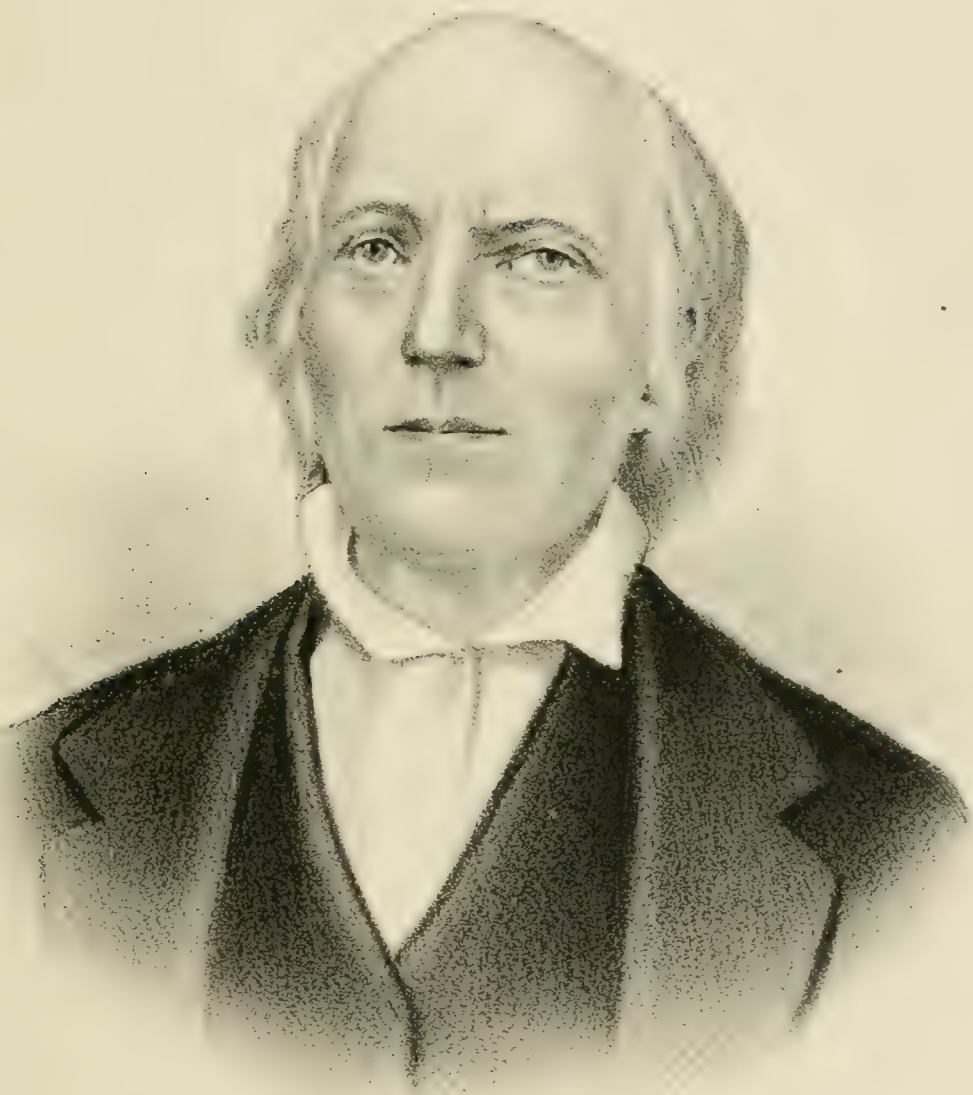
S. H. Meyer, Theodore Glancy, N. H. Manzer, E. J. Goodlander, J. H. T. Madden, J. W. McCrary, W. W. Souster.

After becoming thoroughly organized, this troupe secured the assistance of four of the most popular professionals on the boards. Melissa Breslau, Old Breslau, and Montgomery and Johnson made their residence here two years and took the tragic parts in the plays. The town trustees granted the use of the old court-house to this company with permission to fit it up to suit their purpose, and the building has ever since been used for an opera house, and now goes by that name. It is proper to add that this house was purchased of the county several years ago for the sum of \$500.

The Keithsburg Reading and Conversational Club, having a membership of forty, young and old, was formed Dec. 4, 1880, with a general view to social improvement, but for the particular object of studying the lives and characters of noted authors, and of becoming familiar with their writings. This end is sought to be accomplished by assigning a selected author to one or two persons who come to the next meeting with papers embodying their study of the subject, while others, also appointed, read selections from the same author's works. Weekly meetings take place at the private residences of members, and the club is under the government of a set of officers elected in pursuance of its constitution and by-laws. Mrs. Visa Griffin and Miss Marie Hebbard were respectively the first president and secretary. The officers are chosen bi-monthly. The club has a free library of 120 volumes.

The Keithsburg Silver Band and Musical Association was chartered under the law of the state June 3, 1880, by Karl A. Range, G. C. Humbert, T. A. Marshall, H. P. Humbert, W. F. Kolkenbeck, Edward Ott and B. L. McKnight. W. B. Ellet, E. E. Humbert, W. S. Cabeen, Elmer Deterline, Fred Ellet, Louis Range, Charles Helwig, Robert Jackson and H. C. Cook complete the present membership. The first officers were George Beard, president; W. S. Cabeen, vice-president; G. C. Humbert, secretary; Dennis Merto, treasurer; and T. A. Marshall, contracting agent. Present officers: Edward Ott, president; W. S. Cabeen, vice-president; K. A. Range, secretary; H. P. Humbert, treasurer; and T. A. Marshall, agent. This is one of the best instructed and most popular bands in this part of the west, and was engaged to accompany the Jim City on her first trip between St. Louis and St. Paul. It embraces a full orchestra.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union, auxilliary to the organization of this name for the State of Illinois, was organized by the ladies of Keithsburg, January 31, 1880, under a call issued by Mrs. Kirkpatrick, president of the union for the tenth congressional district. Mrs.



*Samuel Baker*





M. E. Slocumb was the first president. The union is in a flourishing condition, and is composed of sixty of the most earnest, active, zealous women of Keithsburg and vicinity. Temperance organizations of various kinds have been established here from the time the town has had a business history, and each has lived the life of the awakened impulse which brought it forth. We cannot undertake an account of them, for the data are not accessible; nor would it be desirable, as this class of organizations go and come like the seasons, and are but the effects of a principle or power as fixed and sure as that which called the light day and the darkness night. It is enough to know that there has always existed in Keithsburg a strong, unwavering public sentiment in favor of improved social customs, and that every effort in this direction has been ennobled with the labors of good men and the chastening exertions of not less devoted and noble women. In the month of March, this year (1882), the professional temperance lecturers Ward and Hughes held a revival of one week and formed a red ribbon and a blue ribbon club, the two embracing several hundred members.

An event, the result of a movement started by the W. C. T. Union occurred in the spring of 1880, which is noted less for its local significance than the wide attention it attracted at the time. On the petition of over 300 men and women, the town board, in February, passed an ordinance permitting men twenty-one years of age and women eighteen years of age, having qualifications of residence, to vote for or against licensing the sale of intoxicating liquors, at the election for municipal officers on the fifth of April following, and annually thereafter. A separate ballot-box and election board had necessarily to be provided, and the ordinance made it mandatory on the board of trustees to appoint three persons to receive and canvass the votes, two of whom should act as judges and one as clerk. When the day came a number of female celebrities in the suffrage and temperance reform had gathered from distant parts of the country to assist the fair contestants to touch off what Miss Frances E. Willard had christened "the Sumter Gun." The work of preparation began on Saturday afternoon, when the first meeting was held in the Presbyterian church. A mass meeting followed in the evening. On the Sabbath very solemn services took place at the churches, and the strangers from abroad were conspicuous in all the public exercises. Early on the morning of election day the women assembled for religious worship, after which a procession of forty-seven, headed by Mrs. E. G. Hibben, of Peoria, president of the W. C. T. Union of Illinois, marched to the polls. Committees of women were on the street throughout the day laboring with active and effective zeal in the christian cause, under the incitement of a grave



preparation and the first flush of gratitude for their enlarged privileges. Twice in the day the band, with brazen horns, paraded Main street, discoursing awakening strains. Boys trooped in advance carrying banners with the legends, "Bad luck to whisky," "Down with license," etc. No opposition was made, and the poll stood 159 women and 98 men against license. A solitary man voted by mistake for license. The same thing was repeated the next year, but with less demonstration, and this time a license board was elected, when on the eighth of April the famous home protection ordinance, which had excited the liveliest interest and comment, and had brought letters of inquiry and gratulation from all parts of the United States and from Europe, was rescinded.

The Keithsburg Building and Loan Association was organized early in the present year (1882), by some of the leading citizens of the town, who were licensed on the sixth of February, by the secretary of state, to open books for subscriptions to the capital stock. The object aimed at is to assist members to procure and improve real estate. T. B. Cabeen is the president, and T. S. Cummins, secretary.

Green Mound Cemetery lies one mile east of Keithsburg, on ground donated by Paul Sheriff, in 1852, and laid out the same year. Some handsome monuments have been erected, but the enclosure has fallen into a state of sad neglect.

#### TRAGEDIES.

Reuben Williams, being assailed by James Fierman, in his defense killed him by accidentally breaking his neck. The men were shelling corn for William Gayle when the difficulty occurred. This was in the summer of 1851. Williams was forthwith arraigned at the September term of the circuit court, pleaded guilty to the indictment charging him with manslaughter, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for nine months, one day's solitary confinement and the remainder of the time at hard labor.

Mrs. Ungles, the aged mother of W. J. Ungles, was suffocated in her bed by the clothing taking fire from the stove. This occurred about 1855.

In 1858 William, son of James C. Stevens, was drowned at the foot of Mapes' island. He was eleven years old.

A little daughter of G. L. Dunn fell into a tub of hot water and was so badly scalded that she died after six days, April 22, 1859. Her age was four years.

Francis Marion Gruwell was killed November 9, 1859, by the bursting of a cannon while firing a salute over election news, the

particular theme of rejoicing being the success of Warren Shedd, republican candidate for county clerk.

Catharine, wife of James Geiger, and her infant child perished from a foolish attempt to fill a fluid lamp while burning. This was on September 1, 1860. Mrs. Geiger lived six hours in terrible suffering.

In the summer of 1860 Columbus Caufield shot and killed Jake Price in self-defense. Caufield was fully exonerated by the coroner's jury. At another time he killed a man in New Boston township and departed the country and has not since been seen.

Two years later Nathan Shockley, a Missouri secessionist and desperado, stabbed and killed North Fleming. Political malignity was the moving cause, though a trumped-up subterfuge was assigned and so effectively used as to secure the murderer's acquittal. He was afterward fatally cut to pieces in Missouri by a butcher whom he was on the point of shooting down in cold blood.

On the third of November, 1864, Alexander Holland was thrown from his buggy by a runaway horse at the corner of Main and Second streets, and died in a few hours from his injuries.

A little nine-year old daughter of Joseph Wadsworth's caught her clothes on fire from the stove while the rest of the family were out, and was so burned that she died in a few hours. This was in the autumn of 1864.

Hannah Jane Frazier, the handsome and intelligent daughter of Andrew Frazier, lost her life in 1868 by the imprudent use of kerosene in kindling a fire. Her body was horribly burned and she lived only a few hours, but in excruciating agony and conscious to the last. She was about sixteen years of age and had a disposition of great sweetness.

Francis Johnson, son of John Johnson, was drowned in the river about 1869.

The most considerable fire which ever took place in this town was on the night of July 4, 1870, and broke out in the livery stable belonging to H. N. Ives and situated on the west side of Fourth street, between Main and Jackson. The Nelson House adjoining was burned, as were also Mrs. Emily Wade's and Joseph Thompson's dwellings, and O. Holland's corn house. The total loss, after deducting \$5,500 of insurance, was \$13,000. The distressing feature of this sad misfortune was the loss of the two young boys, Frank Ives and Willie Dempster, who perished in the flames while sleeping in the livery stable. These lads were about fourteen years old. They



suffocated, it is thought, before the fire reached their couch. Their charred bodies were removed and the burial took place from the Methodist church where most solemn and impressive funeral services were performed. The fire is believed to have been incendiary.

John T. Calhoun was drowned in the river at the foot of Main street, on Sunday morning, May 12, 1872. He and his wife were in a skiff which was capsized by the current. She was insensible when rescued but recovered.

George H. Frick was killed by a bursting cannon when celebrating election news on Wednesday, November 6, 1872.

Willie Phares, son of W. H. Phares, a very beautiful and promising child of little less than four years, was left sleeping in bed in the morning. The family being startled by his screams rushed to the room and found his night-clothes in flames. It is supposed that he set himself on fire with matches. This was on July 22, 1875. He survived until the next day.

M. Kelly, of this place, while on a trip to Canada for his health, committed suicide by drowning at Michigan City, Indiana, September 19, 1876.

On June 23, 1877, John Moore lost his little son John, eight years old, by drowning in Pope creek.

Mrs. Julia Strong, a useful and respected woman fifty-six years of age, living in the country, was thrown from her buggy by an unmanageable team, and after being dragged some distance violently struck a tree on Main street, which fractured her skull and caused instant death. This melancholy accident happened November 26, 1880.

Frederick Fry, a saloon-keeper on Black Hawk or Willett's island, was shot and mortally wounded by William A. Griffin, on the evening of February 28, 1881, when avoiding arrest upon a capias in the hands of Thomas L. Rippey. These men were in pursuit of him upon the ice near the main land, and when within twenty yards of him he began shooting at Griffin, who returned his fire with fatal effect. He lived twelve hours. Upon the inquest Griffin was acquitted of blame.

About ten years ago some boys were pushing a car on the track near the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis depot, when Frank Gotchalk, aged ten or twelve years, was crushed under the wheels.

An infant child of Samuel Woods was burned to death at the stove, while left alone, some seven years ago.

## TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

In the earlier history of this township the people went out to Glancy's mill to vote. Keithsburg was made a polling place in 1840, and on the third of August the first election was held. In the fall of 1853 Mercer county adopted township organization, and the next spring the first officers were elected in Keithsburg. Below is a list of the principal ones from that time to the present date:

Year.	SUPERVISOR.	TOWN CLERK.	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR.
1854	O. C. Allen .....	.....	.....	.....
1855	O. C. Allen .....	W. J. Ungles.....	H. G. Calhoun.....	John Morehead.
1856	N. B. Partridge .....	J. S. Pinkerton .....	William Willett .....	J. B. Matlock.
1857	H. S. Scott.....	R. C. Cabeen* .....	James Fleming*.....	J. T. Calhoun.
1858	Washington Wolf.....	John Nevius.....	G. L. Dunn .....	J. J. Wordin.
1859	Joseph Harvey .....	John Nevius.....	E. L. Wolf .....	J. J. Wordin.
1860	B. D. Ellett .....	John Nevius.....	A. F. Glover.....	J. J. Wordin.
1861	J. C. Pepper .....	John Nevius.....	A. F. Glover.....	J. J. Wordin.
1862	John E. Willits.....	John Nevius.....	C. J. Simpson.....	Joseph Thompson.
1863	John E. Willits.....	John Nevius.....	C. J. Simpson.....	Joseph Thompson.
1864	John E. Willits.....	John Nevius.....	C. J. Simpson.....	B. P. Frick.
1865	John E. Willits.....	William P. Litten.....	George Gore.....	Joseph Thompson.
1866	T. B. Cabeen .....	J. H. T. Madden.....	C. J. Simpson.....	Joseph Thompson.
1867	C. C. Matlock .....	J. H. T. Madden.....	C. M. Wright .....	R. C. Humbert.
1868	C. C. Matlock .....	J. H. T. Madden.....	J. A. Swezy.....	R. C. Humbert.
1869	C. C. Matlock .....	J. H. T. Madden.....	J. A. Swezy.....	John Thomson.
1870	C. C. Matlock .....	J. H. T. Madden.....	J. A. Swezy.....	George F. Parsons.
1871	Benijah Lloyd .....	A. H. Frazier .....	J. A. Swezy.....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1872	Benijah Lloyd .....	A. H. Frazier .....	John Beavens .....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1873	Benijah Lloyd .....	T. S. Cummins .....	A. F. Glover .....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1874	Benijah Lloyd .....	T. S. Cummins .....	Isaiah Willits .....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1875	Benijah Lloyd .....	T. S. Cummins .....	Isaiah Willits .....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1876	Benijah Lloyd .....	T. S. Cummins .....	Isaiah Willits .....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1877	Benijah Lloyd .....	J. N. McGee.....	Isaiah Willits .....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1878	Benijah Lloyd .....	T. S. Cummins .....	Isaiah Willits .....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1879	Benijah Lloyd .....	T. S. Cummins .....	Isaiah Willits .....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1880	Benijah Lloyd .....	T. S. Cummins .....	Isaiah Willits .....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1881	Benijah Lloyd .....	T. S. Cummins .....	Joshua Willits.....	Thomas H. Freeman.
1882	Seth E. Gates.....	T. S. Cummins .....	Joshua Willits.....	Thomas H. Freeman.

\*These persons refused to qualify and serve, and the town board on the second of May filled the vacancies with the following appointments: John Nevius for town clerk and Jacob Spangler for assessor.

The following citizens of the township have been elected to the office of justice of the peace: 1840, J. McH. Wilson, resigned in 1841; 1843, B. D. Ellett, Nicholas Edwards, John W. Nevius; 1847, James Garner, Nathaniel B. Partridge, B. D. Ellett, John W. Nevius; 1849, O. C. Allen, James Garner; 1852, Peter Eckly, N. B. Partridge; 1854, H. G. Calhoun, R. W. Kile; 1855, John Dunn, vice Kile, resigned; 1858, John Nevius, Mark J. O'Brien; 1860, H. G. Calhoun, vice O'Brien, resigned; 1862, John Nevius, resigned in 1865; M. J. O'Brien, resigned in 1864; 1864, J. A. J. Birdsall; 1865, O. C. Richardson; 1866, Matthias Wickiser, O. C. Richardson; 1868, Jacob B. Spangler; 1870, Matthias Wickiser, resigned same year and J. B. Spangler elected to vacancy; A. F. Glover, resigned in 1873; 1873, T. S. Cummins, H. S. Scott; 1877, T. S. Cummins, H. S. Scott; 1881, T. S. Cummins, Richard Wolf; 1882, H. S. Scott, vice Wolf, resigned.



## PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The first roads in this township were opened by order of the county commissioners June 3, 1839, one having been surveyed from the bridge on the Edwards river, on the New Boston and Knoxville state road, through Keithsburg to Gavitt's cabin (alias Columbia City) on to the county line, and the other from Keithsburg to Isaiah Willits', and from thence intersecting with the county road leading to the Ohio settlement on Pope River. This is substantially the description given in the petitions which Robert Keith presented at the regular term, March 9, 1839. June 7, three dollars were deposited with each petition to pay the viewers, Lewis Noble, Rezin Pratt and Joseph Leonard. For laying out these roads the following disbursements were made from the road fund: Lewis Noble, for three and a half days' viewing, \$3.50; John Noble and Isaac Bates, for two days' chaining, \$2 each; and Paul Sheriff, for hauling stakes one and a half days, \$3.

A railroad from Warsaw to Rockford having been projected to run through Keithsburg, November 4, 1855, the town unanimously voted to subscribe \$20,000 to the capital stock of the company. The work of grading was commenced in 1856, B. P. Frick and J. C. Cabeen having the contract from Warsaw to Keithsburg, the former taking charge of the construction at this end of the route and the latter at the other. To settle all doubt as to the legality of the subscription and to make it available, an act of the legislature chartering the town was procured, with a special provision legalizing the subscription and authorizing the issue of bonds. This was approved February 16, 1857, and on the 4th of May following an ordinance was passed directing the president of the board of trustees to subscribe to the stock of the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad Company in the above-mentioned sum, and empowering that officer and the clerk to execute the bonds of the town, due in twenty years, with interest at the rate of ten per cent, payable semi-annually. They were to be delivered as work upon the road progressed, to pay the assessments upon the stock taken by the town, and on the 1st day of June eight bonds for \$1,000 each were issued. On the 16th four of them were passed over to B. P. Frick, and on the 10th of July the remaining four were surrendered to the same person. In this last month the company failed, and work on the road was permanently suspended. No part of the route was finished. Below Sagetown some bridging was done, but as the contractors were never paid for the bridges these were afterward taken down.

The corporation paid the interest on the indebtedness made in aid of this railroad until the hardship prompted the town to resist further collection, and in 1863 suit was brought in the circuit court of Mercer

county and carried to the supreme court of the state, from which a writ of mandamus was procured, compelling the town to levy a tax to meet this obligation. In 1874 one of these bonds was paid and canceled, the second in 1876; and August 3, 1877, a corporation election was held to vote on the question of a new issue to retire the six then outstanding. A unanimous vote of forty-seven decided this in the affirmative, and on the first day of December the bonds were issued in denominations of \$100. Next year ten of these were redeemed, leaving the presented bonded debt of the town \$5,000.

Hiram W. Thornton, last president of the Warsaw & Rockford railroad, brought suit against the company for services and obtained judgment; and when the road was sold under execution he bought the grading and has since disposed of it piecemeal at private sale. The Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis railroad having been projected with the intention of running the line through Keithsburg, a part of the road-bed of the Warsaw & Rockford was purchased by this company.

To preserve the continuity of events it is necessary to say that in 1869, through the exertions of Col. Isaac McManus, state senator from the fourteenth district, a charter for the Dixon & Quincy railroad was obtained, with the ulterior design, no doubt, of transferring it to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy corporation. The Dixon & Quincy company was forthwith organized with Col. McManus as president, and on the 18th of May a special election was held in Keithsburg to decide whether the township should take \$35,000 of stock in the road, the bonds covering the subscription not to be issued until there should be a running connection by rail from Keithsburg to lines connecting with Chicago. This was favorably determined by a vote of 229 against 11. Abington township also voted to subscribe \$10,000 to the capital stock of the company.

Subsequent to these elections a meeting of the directors was held in Chicago, at which a very warm discussion took place regarding the transfer of the charter. A representative was present from each of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis companies. McManus was still interested in behalf of the former, but when the vote was taken his object was defeated, the rest of the board voting solidly to turn over the subscriptions to the other corporation on condition that it give to Keithsburg railway connection with Chicago by the way of Rockford.

To be certain that this proceeding was satisfactory to the people, the directors caused a special election to be called for the 4th of October, and submitted the proposition to recall the aid formerly voted to the Dixon & Quincy, and to grant the same amount to the Rockford,



Rock Island & St. Louis railroad. This was understood by the directors themselves to be simply informal and without legal consequence, as the charter invested the board with full power in the premises. Their action was endorsed by 197 against 5.

From the moment the assignment of the subscriptions was made, work on the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis road was pushed north from Sagetown (now Gladstone) with great vigor; and December 14, 1869, the first locomotive ran into this town amidst the ringing of bells, the firing of anvils, and the blowing of steam whistles. Very little, if any, aid, except that guaranteed by these two townships, had been secured upon this route; but about this time Warren county tendered a liberal donation upon condition that the road should be built through Monmouth, and this had the effect to divert the line at Bushnell from the contemplated course, and to break off construction suddenly at this point. The grading had been done between here and the American Central railway, but the iron was not down, and the bridge which had been erected over Pope creek was partly washed out, when the remainder was removed. The terminal depot was built on the eastern verge of the town, and up to 1877 this was the river branch of the main line.

This action of the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Company in changing their road left the Dixon & Quincy Company in a position to make a new arrangement, and the matter slumbered until the summer of 1870, when it was revived by Theodore Glancy. The result of this fresh agitation was that the directors held a meeting and passed a resolution to open the books for new subscriptions. Gen. A. C. Harding, of Monmouth, appeared at this meeting and subscribed an amount sufficient to give him control of the affairs of the company; and immediately a new board of directors was elected, of which Harding, by virtue of his power, became president, when he filled the other positions according to his own caprice. But the general refused to proceed with the construction of the road until the bonds should be issued, and toward the close of the year 1870 a citizens' meeting was held at which H. S. Scott, William Willett and C. C. Matlock were appointed custodians to hold them in trust and to deliver them to Harding when the road should be completed from Keithsburg to the American Central railroad. C. S. Orth, heading the opposition, sued out an injunction to restrain the issuance and delivery of the bonds, and before service could be had on Matlock, the supervisor, the latter, notwithstanding he had promised not to evade service of the writ, hastened off to Monmouth and turned them over to Harding, taking the general's bond for \$70,000, binding him to surrender them to the

township in the event that the road should not be built between the points above-named by the first of January, 1871.

It is said that it was never contemplated to build this road; that while the ostensible purpose was to lay a track between the two cities named in the charter, the real object was to construct only the six-mile section from Keithsburg to the American Central railway. Whatever may have been the covert design, this was all that was done. The work was performed late in 1870 with the capital and by the construction company of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, the deception being kept up meantime until the Dixon & Quincy corporation could secure the township bonds, which were the great prize that at last fell into Harding's hands for disposal. It is alleged that all that was asked of the general by the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, was to obtain for that corporation the right of way, which he did for something less than \$3,000.

Trains ran into Keithsburg over this short line on January 1, 1871. At the annual township election, in April of this year, Benijah Lloyd was elected to succeed C. C. Matlock as supervisor; on the 11th he qualified, and the following day demanded the books and papers belonging to the office. A few hours previous to this demand Matlock certified to the auditor of state that the township bonds issued to the Dixon & Quincy Railroad Company were entitled to registration. These bonds, seventy in number, were for \$500 each, bearing ten per cent interest, dated November 1, 1870, and payable January 1, 1891. The township regularly paid, by taxation, the annual interest on these bonds up to and including the year 1880, when a suit in equity was brought by the township in the circuit court of Mercer county, to declare them void. They were supposed to be payable at the will of the people after five years, as this was one of the conditions on which the subscription was voted; but no knowledge of their provisions could be obtained, and to pay so high a rate of interest had become unnecessary and impolitic. The people were willing to refund at lower interest, but when no trace of the bonds could be discovered and the matter began to have the appearance of a design on the part of the holders to thwart any endeavor to retire them, inquiry was excited and investigation followed, when the numerous irregularities surrounding their issue and registration came to light, and it was decided to contest their validity. As a further defense of the people against the presumptions raised against them by the fact that for ten years they paid the interest without protest, it is true that a large majority were not aware that a tax for this purpose was being levied and collected.

Morgan G. Bulkley, of Connecticut, holder of \$23,500 of this



municipal indebtedness filed an answer to the complainant's bill; and on his motion the case was removed to the district court of the United States for the northern district of Illinois, where it was heard by Judge Blodgett, who, on January 9, 1882, dismissed the suit. The case is now pending in the United States supreme court, where it has been taken on appeal.

When Gen. Harding obtained possession of these bonds it only remained for him to transfer the road to the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Company, which he did; and during several succeeding years Keithsburg was the terminus of the Galva branch, the depot being situated where it now is, close to the river. Finally, the main line and branches of the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis railroad were absorbed by this company, and in the latter part of July, 1877, the right of way through the town between the two depots was procured, and in August the extremities of the two lines were brought into connection by a half mile of new track.

The Keithsburg, Lacon & Eastern Railroad Company was organized here, and a survey made for a standard gauge road from this point to Lacon in 1873, and a considerable amount of subscriptions was taken along the line, but the financial revulsion of that year caused the enterprise to be abandoned.

The Keithsburg & Eastern Railroad Company was organized under the law of the state providing for a general system of railroad incorporations, September 22, 1873, by the following incorporators: W. D. Smith, T. B. Cabeen, C. A. Frick, E. L. Marshall, G. W. Whiting, B. C. Taliaferro, Harry Weaver, William Gayle, Theodore Glancy, J. P. Wycoff, A. B. Sheriff, R. J. Cabeen and William Willett. The project was to construct a narrow gauge railroad from Keithsburg to the east line of the state in Kankakee or Iroquois county, with a branch to Chicago; but it was never surveyed east beyond the Illinois river. Grading was begun at Keithsburg in the spring of 1874, and when the line had been extended eight miles it was decided to change the route either to Galesburg or Monmouth. Denny, in Warren county, distant twenty miles, being reached, work came to a standstill in 1875. Subsequently the road was sold in sections under execution, and finally the whole property was sold under mechanic's lien, but in each case it was purchased for D. M. Halstead and T. B. Cabeen. Halstead assigned his interest to George Seaton, R. J. Cabeen and T. B. Cabeen, who received a sheriff's deed. Recently these owners have contracted with William Hanna and B. P. Phelps, of Monmouth, who represent the Peoria & Farmington railroad, to convey to them for a consideration all their interest in the Keithsburg & Eastern, if the former shall be completed to this point by February 22, 1884.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

The subject of this sketch, ISAIAH WILLITS, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, November 2, 1812, where his boyhood days were spent in rambling over the rocky bluffs and helping his father on a small farm. In 1826 the family removed to Wayne county, Indiana, where he was engaged in farming near Centerville, ten miles west of Richmond. In 1835 he came to Mercer county, Illinois, where he took a claim near Pope Mills, now known as the old Frick farm. He went back to Indiana several times for cattle, driving them through on horseback, until 1838, when he permanently settled at Bald Bluff, Henderson county, erected a rude log cabin and endured all the hardships and privations known to the earlier settlers. It was in this year that the famous Black Hawk chieftain visited the Bluff, together with four hundred of his warriors. Mr. Willits says that his courage was never questioned, but when he saw them all approaching under full gallop, he is willing to acknowledge that he felt somewhat "shaky." They were tribes of Sacs and Foxes, who were on their way to their reservations on the Des Moines river, Iowa. April 4, 1839, Mr. Willits was united in marriage to Elizabeth Reynolds, daughter of Caleb Reynolds, of Ohio, she too being one of the pioneers, having come to Mercer county among the first who settled here. They lived on their Henderson county farm till the year 1857, when they removed to Keithsburg, where he went into the mercantile business, continued in this pursuit for four years, sold out and purchased a farm south of town half a mile, where he resided till the spring of 1873, when he became so afflicted as to unfit him for active duties, and he moved again to Keithsburg, where he still resides. Mr. and Mrs. Willits are parents of ten children, nine of whom are living. Joshua, the eldest, was born in Henderson county March 13, 1840, was raised on a farm with limited educational advantages such as existed at the early settling of the country, yet by close application and study at home he acquired a good practical education. He was married November 31, 1873, to Miss Clara Willits. They have two children: Norman, born December 6, 1875; and Harry, born July 5, 1879. His vocation is farming. His farm joins the old homestead place. Emily, the eldest daughter, born in Henderson county, November 11, 1841, obtained the rudiments of learning in a little log school house, subsequently attended graded school in Oquawka and Keithsburg, was married to Mr. A. B. Childs November 16, 1880. They have one son, Benny, born November 14, 1881. Leander, second son, born November 21, 1843, and Minerva, second daughter, born September 6, 1845, both unmarried, are living at home with their parents. Byron, born April 5, 1847, died



November 21, 1847, aged seven months. Jo. H. Wird, daughter, born August 26, 1848, received her education principally in the graded schools at Keithsburg, where she began teaching at the age of seventeen years, and has been constantly engaged in the work in this place for sixteen years, attending normal schools during the vacations. Last year (1881) she was at State Normal, at Bloomington, Illinois. Azro P., born July 19, 1850, was educated in Keithsburg; read medicine with Dr. E. L. Marshall and attended two courses of lectures in Rush Medical college, Chicago; was a member of the graduating class of 1877; received his diploma on examination before the Illinois State Board of Health, and is now (1882) a practicing physician; January 19, 1880, he was united in marriage with Lizzie F. Whiting, of Keithsburg. William A., born November 10, 1852; passed creditably through the high school at Keithsburg; began his career as teacher in the State of Missouri, after which he came to his native county (Mercer) and taught three years in the district schools; then took the principalship of the Keithsburg graded school, and is now (1882) occupying that position. Leone, fourth daughter, born August 11, 1855, is unmarried and living with her parents. Lydia A., youngest daughter, born January 12, 1859, was married to Heman N. Childs, November 16, 1881. They are living on their farm in Henderson county, five miles southeast of Keithsburg.

BENJAMIN D. ELLETT (deceased) was born near Richmond, Virginia, February 2, 1813. He was reared partly on a farm, but early in life turned his attention to merchandizing in the dry goods line. In the spring of 1836 he emigrated to Illinois and settled in Henderson county, where he however remained but a short time, and removed to Mercer county, April 19, 1838. He was united in marriage with Miss Grace E., a daughter of Mr. Charles Jack, an early settler of Mercer county. She died in October, 1850, leaving three children, but one of whom is now (1882) living: Mrs. Mary J., wife of F. P. Burgett, banker, of Keithsburg. Mr. Ellett's second marriage was on September 8, 1851, with Miss Orpha B., daughter of Andrew and Mary (Lloyd) Myers. She was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, September 1, 1827, and came with her parents to Mercer county in 1836. Here she received such an education as was obtainable in the pioneer schools of this county's early history. At the time of his second marriage Mr. Ellett was filling the position of sheriff of Mercer county. After the termination of his official term, he permanently located in Keithsburg and engaged in the lumber business, which he followed till the time of his death, which occurred October 29, 1880. By his last marriage he had borne to him nine children, as follows: Frank A.;

Minnie, wife of Martin Rice ; Nellie, wife of C. S. Frick ; William B., Harry B., Bettie, Edwin M., Frederick D. and Thomas A. Mrs. Ellett and family are living in her comfortable home in Keithsburg.

BENIJAH LLOYD was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania March 17, 1825, and is the second son of Benijah and Elizabeth (Dunn) Lloyd, who were among the early settlers of Mercer county, coming here in September 1835. Mr. Lloyd settled in Millersburg township where he lived till the time of his death (1864). He was the father of six children, one of whom was killed by falling out of the wagon near Keithsburg while on their way to their pioneer home. Benijah, the subject of this notice, thus early became identified with the county and enjoyed only the means of pioneer school education. December 9, 1847 he was united in marriage with Miss Arrelida J., daughter of Dr. Mark Willits, an early settler of Mercer county. They have reared a family of nine children, viz: Omer H., Ella J., Nettie, Charles M., William W., George W., Maurice E. and Maude. After his marriage Mr. Lloyd engaged in farming which he successfully followed till the fall of 1856, when he was elected Sheriff of Mercer. He then located at Keithsburg, then county seat, where he remained till its removal to Aledo. At the expiration of his official term, in 1859, he returned to his farm but in 1860 came to Keithsburg where he has since resided enjoying the respect and esteem of his many friends who have almost continually kept him in some position of trust, as shown by the records of the township.

As early as 1836 there came one to Mercer county with limited means but hearty and industrious, and with a strong resolution to provide for the present and procure plenty for the future. Such a character was PAUL SHERIFF, who was born in Columbia county Pennsylvania, February 16, 1810. He was married December 23, 1832, to Miss Mary daughter of John and Margaret Doak. Four years after their marriage they left their native state and came to Mercer county where they have resided ever since. Mr. Sheriff has always taken a lively interest in public enterprises and given largely to their benefit. He has been very successful in accumulating quite a large property. He has a large farm that comes to the corporation limits of Keithsburg. Politically Mr. Sheriff has always been a republican. Religiously he has been a member of the Presbyterian church for thirty years. In temperance movements he has always taken an active part and has tried to show men that liquor will ruin those who become its slaves. Mr. Sheriff has always been engaged in farming. His father was born in Ireland, and emigrated to this country in the year 1790 and settled in Pennsylvania.



Thomas and Mary (Woodham) Bridger emigrated from Sussex, England to America in 1826, landing at New York. They then went direct to Troy where they lived until 1836, when they came west to Mercer county, Illinois, and settled in what is now Suez township, where he and his wife lived but one year when they both took sick and died about ten days apart. Mrs. Emma Doak, daughter of the above, was born February 4, 1819, in Sussex England, and crossed the Atlantic when seven years of age. She remembers the trip well and many facts connected therewith. In May, 1842, she was married to DANIEL F. DOAK, second child of John and Margaret Doak. He was born August 5, 1810. After their marriage they first lived in Green township two miles north of Viola until 1850, when they sold out and removed to Perryton township where they lived one year. They then removed to Keithsburg township where they have lived ever since. In 1864 they bought the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 2, in Keithsburg township, which makes a very comfortable home for them. They have about one hundred acres in cultivation, the balance in pasture. There have been ten children from this union, eight living, two dead. James T., Martha J., Mary A., Sarah E., Nancy M. (married to T. J. Hayes), Anna, Daniel W., Ida M., John, Fannie A. Mary A. and Ida M. are dead. Daniel (their father) died in September, 1869. Mrs. Doak is still living but in poor health.

BENJAMIN F. GRUWELL, was born in Greene county, Ohio, November 22, 1808. In 1825 he removed with his parents, Jacob and Prudence (Dill) Gruwell, to Wayne county, Indiana, where he lived at farming until 1837. He was married in Miami county, Ohio, to Miss Lucy Hurst, December 18, 1829. In the autumn of 1837 Mr. Gruwell, taking his wife, their two children, and his wife's sister, emigrated to this township, he driving a six-ox team and hauling the family effects, while Mrs. Gruwell and the others kept company in a one-horse carriage. They arrived at the bluff on the 18th of October, and Mr. Gruwell bought out the claim of Jack Harris, a single man, to 80 acres on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1. The time was short for making improvements before the biting blasts of winter, so a 10×12 foot cabin was hastily constructed from small trees eight inches in diameter rived and stood upright, with one end in the ground. Sod from the prairie formed a tight roof, and sticks and mud composed the chimney. The crevices were daubed in the usual way, and a quilt was hung up at the door to keep out snow and wind. The parents and two little children lived in this four months in great enjoyment. During the time many visitors came to their cabin. It was here that their fourth child, Martha, was born. Boxes in which they had brought their household

goods were their bedstead that winter, and their "fall-leaf" table was the only one that anybody had knowledge of in the country. There was just room enough for two to sit down to the table at once. They had hired help that winter, and when the hands had got their supper they went to their own homes to lodge. The people then thought nothing of going ten miles to visit; all within a radius of that distance were neighbors; and at that time most people knew everybody in the county. The family lived on this farm until they owned 300 acres of land. In 1850 Mr. Gruwell went across the plains to California, and returned by steamship the next year. In 1852 he disposed of his farm and moved to Keithsburg, where he bought the Calhoun House and kept hotel seven years. They have been the parents of seven children, as follows: Joseph, who died in infancy; Melissa; Francis Marion, who was killed in Keithsburg November 24, 1859, by the bursting of a cannon while celebrating a victory at the polls; Martha; Erastus, who was killed at Fort Donelson February 13, 1862; Alice; and Edna (dead). Martha was married February 21, 1856, to John Thomson, a native of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, a carpenter by trade, who came to Keithsburg in 1853 and worked here till the summer of 1862. At that time he enlisted in company H, 84th reg. Ill. Vol., and served upward of a year in the field. The hardships of the service completely shattered his health, and he has since been a confirmed and helpless invalid. Of his eleven children eight are now living. One daughter, Miss Mary L., has lived with her grandmother Gruwell since the age of five. These two are communicants in the Presbyterian church.

OLIVER P. EMERSON, retired farmer, is a son of Edward and Sarah (Swaford) Emerson, and was born in Wayne county, Indiana, June 17, 1817. He was reared on the farm, where he helped to clear up and make a home among the tall Indiana timber. In 1839 he came to Mercer county, Illinois, but soon returned to his father's home in Indiana. In 1840 he again came to this county, where he worked till 1842, when he went back to Indiana, and on February 15th of the same year was married to Miss Sarah Kelly, a native of that place. In about 1847, with his family, he came to this county and permanently located and engaged in farming and stock raising, following the business for many years. Mr. Emerson begun for himself, with but very little except a pair of willing hands and an industrious disposition, but by dint of hard work and good management, has accumulated a large farm, comprising over 600 acres, the most of which he has recently divided among his children. Himself and wife have been life-long members of the Christian church. She died August 29, 1881, and is

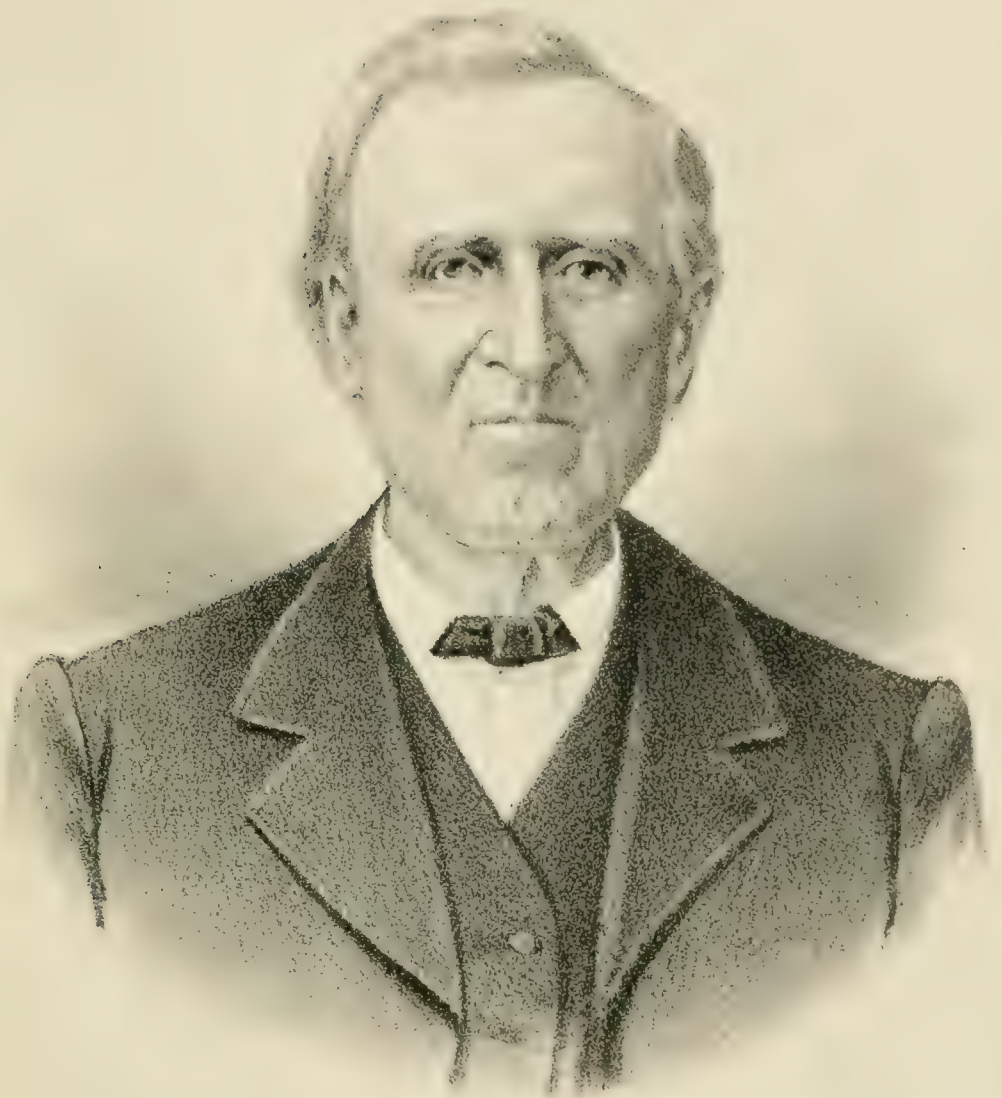


buried at the New Boston cemetery. His five living children are : Hester, wife of Mr. Charles Dryden ; Monroe ; Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Alexander Calhoun ; George L. ; and Orind V., wife of Mr. William Pryne.

DAVID PARDEE, farmer, was born in New Haven county, Connecticut, June 26, 1809. Early in life he served an apprenticeship at carpentering. In 1831 he went to New Orleans, where he worked at his trade till 1840, when he came to Illinois and bought land near Viola, in Mercer county, where he lived three years. At the time he bought his land he paid down a large part of the purchase money, agreeing to pay the balance out of money then due him, but which he failed to get, and consequently lost his land. He then came to Keithsburg and built a flat-boat in which to carry himself out of the country. After floating down the Father of Waters into Louisiana, he landed near Port Hudson, where he remained on his boat till by chance he met a friend of whom he borrowed a few dollars, went ashore and bought a suit of clothes, and then soon found work. In 1864 he again came to Mercer, purchased his present home in Sec. 14, T. 13, R. 5, Keithsburg township, where he is now pleasantly located engaged in farming. Mr. Pardee has been twice married ; first, in Louisiana, to Miss Ellen Crenan, by whom he has three sons living in Kansas : John, Thomas, and Josiah. His second marriage was with Miss Sophia Green, a native of Iowa, by whom he has three children living : Elbert F., Stephen, and Ora May.

MARTIN WIRT was born in Ohio in 1820. He was educated in the common schools of his native state. In 1840 he came to Illinois and settled on a farm near the village of Keithsburg, Mercer county, Illinois, and engaged in farming. June 11, 1850, he was married to Miss Esther Groves, a native of London, England, who was born January 24, 1831, and came to America in 1849. They became the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living : Jane, wife of Fred Freter ; Ada C., wife of J. Lester ; George G. ; Emma V., wife of A. L. Emerson ; Willie M., Maggie M., Fred. N. and Samuel, deceased. In 1868 Mrs. Wirt fulfilled a long cherished desire of her heart in returning to see her parents in the old home in England, where she remained on a visit six months. On August 5, 1879, Mr. Wirt died, leaving his affectionate family a comfortable home.

JOSEPHUS WADE (deceased), was born in Highland county, Ohio, November 19, 1826, and spent his early youth on the farm. His education was such as could be obtained in the common schools. In 1840 he emigrated with his parents to Illinois, landing at Keithsburg on December 4. October 16, 1851, he was united in marriage with



JAMES HEATON.





Miss Emily D., daughter of John M. Nicholson, who was born in Washington county, Indiana, February 18, 1833. In 1853 he permanently located in Keithsburg and engaged in the livery business, following the same through life. He died at St. Anthony's Falls, Minnesota, August 1, 1868, where he had gone with a view of improving his health. While there he was accompanied by his wife who brought back his remains to Keithsburg for interment. Besides an affectionate and sorrowing wife, he left two living children. Two are deceased. The two living are John M. and Mary J. The former, born October 20, 1855, was married November 24, 1880, to Miss Mollie E. Cummins, a daughter of T. S. Cummins, Esq. He died January 18, 1880, of consumption. Mr. Wade's only surviving child, Mary J., was born in Keithsburg, January 13, 1861, and is living with her mother, and by the pleasant sunshine of her presence renders home very happy and agreeable. Mr. Wade's mother died in Keithsburg, January 20, 1882, and was at the time of her death the oldest person living in the town.

Among the few early settlers of Keithsburg township still remaining we find Mr. BENJAMIN L. HARDIN. He was born in Wayne county, Indiana, April 29, 1818, and is a son of Thomas and Polly Wilson Hardin. He was raised on a farm with only the advantages of a pioneer log cabin school, but where he enjoyed the means of fully developing his muscular powers in the tall timber of Indiana. December 24, 1840, he married Miss Minerva, daughter of James Gibson, Esq., of Indianapolis, Indiana, and the next year emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, and settled near where he now (1882) lives in the township of Keithsburg. After his first settlement in the new country he realized the lack of religious worship and soon engaged the services of a Methodist preacher to hold meetings at his cabin, which was continued till a more suitable place could be provided. Suffice it say that to his energy and untiring zeal is largely due the prosperity of the church in this township. Mr. Hardin has reared a family of nine children, all living: William, now farming in Iowa; Joseph W., now farming in Iowa; James A., also farming in Iowa; John P., at home; Alvis, on a farm in Keithsburg; Thomas, Lava, Perry and Frank, at home. Mr. Hardin's farm of 360 acres is located in Secs. 11 and 12, T. 13, R. 5.

Among the early settlers who came to Mercer county, Illinois, may be mentioned the name of WILLIAM S. EMERSON, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, January 15, 1822. He is the fourth child of Edward and Sarah (Swaford) Emerson, living with his parents until twenty-two years of age, when he commenced farming for himself on



a small scale, in which business he has been engaged ever since, having accumulated considerable property, 160 acres in section 11, ninety acres in section 10, and forty-eight acres in section 10 of the new survey. He came to Mercer county, Illinois, during the year of 1844, leaving his parents and his native state for the purpose of securing him a home in the valley of the Mississippi, where so many have accumulated wealth from its fertile soil. November 13, 1845, he was married to Delila Hurst, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, February 15, 1828. They have had seven children, five of whom are living and two dead: Edward L. was born August 18, 1846; William E., February 10, 1850; Francis M., May 8, 1852; Lynden, August 19, 1857; Thomas H., April 16, 1861; Nettie F., October 22, 1865; Ida May, June 25, 1870. Edward L. is married to Miss Ella Gailey, and is at present practicing medicine in New Windsor, Mercer county. Lynden is married to Miss Emma Wirt, and is engaged in farming. Francis M. and Nettie are dead. Thomas and Ida remain at home with their parents. In politics Mr. Emerson has always been a republican. He has been a member of the Christian church since twenty-two years of age.

HENRY G. CALHOUN, fourth in a family of ten children, by Thomas and Jane (Gray) Calhoun, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, October 31, 1820. He was reared on his father's farm, obtained a common school education, learned the cooper's trade, and after working at that three or four winters took up with carpentering. In 1844 he left the home of his childhood and embarking at Wheeling came by river to Keithsburg, landing here on the fifth of April. He worked three years at carpentry, and meantime, June 10, 1846, was married to Miss Sarah J. Brown, who died ten months afterward, leaving twin daughters, one of which lived a year, while the other, Sarah Jane, is yet living and is the wife of William S. McCormick, of Ohio Grove township. From 1847 to 1849 Mr. Calhoun was clerking for Messrs. Noble & Gayle. After that he was in the employ of Abram Rife for some time, and while engaged with him was married again to Mrs. Julia A. Hubbell, November 29, 1849. In October of the same year he opened the Calhoun house and conducted it over two years, and in the same time he improved a farm of eighty acres near the town. In 1853 he was elected to the office of justice of the peace and was appointed deputy recorder, and also held the appointment of notary public. He was thus engaged in public business for eight years. September 30, 1861, he enlisted in company G, 30th Ill. Vol., and was elected and commissioned first lieutenant of his company. He was taken prisoner September 1, 1862, at Brittain's Lane, Tennessee, and having been

paroled on the 16th he resigned and came home broken down in health. Since that time he has been variously engaged in building, clerking, book-keeping and canvassing. Mr. Calhoun is prominent in the Masonic order. In December, 1850, he was made a Mason in Robert Burns Lodge, No. 113, A.F.A.M., and in October, 1851, he took the chapter degrees in Horeb Chapter, No. 4, R.A.M., at Knoxville, and in June, 1880, the degrees in Galesburg Commandery, No. 8. He has filled all the offices in the lodge and the chapter, and has been a representative to the grand lodge at two different periods, first in 1856 and at a subsequent time four consecutive years, in each of which last he held the appointment of district deputy grand master. He was also a member of one of the standing committees seven or eight years from the expiration of his service as representative. Mr. Calhoun was originally a whig. On the dissolution of that party he, with the Hon. John S. Thompson, was the first to take active measures looking toward the organization of the republican party in Keithsburg township, and he is still as ardent as ever for the success of the same party. By his second marriage he has two daughters: Josephine Louisa and Augusta Belle. The latter is the wife of C. A. Mertz.

JACOB WOLFE was born in the State of Maryland, near Harper's Ferry, October 10, 1792. His parents moved to the State of Ohio in 1798 and settled twelve miles south of Dayton, near Germantown. May Yount, his wife, was born in the State of North Carolina May 9, 1797, near the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin river. Her parents removed to Ohio and settled in the same neighborhood. They were married in the State of Ohio in 1814, moved to Indiana in 1822, and raised a family of nine children. The mother died October 19, 1838, and the father August 23, 1861. W. Wolfe, son of the above, was born in the State of Ohio, July 22, 1816, and his wife, Rebecca Marlatt, in the State of Virginia, November 14, 1816. They were married in Wayne county October 19, 1839. In 1844 they moved to Mercer county, Illinois, landing here on the 23d of October. At that time there was but one house on what was called the Prairie road from Henderson Grove to the bluff, and that was a small frame. There was then only a track where the horses walked, and prairie grass was as high as the horses' backs. There were then only a few families in the bottom, and not a house could be seen from the bluff to Keithsburg. At that time there was not what could be properly called a house where Keithsburg now is. He says the first time he was in town he saw Bill Brewer shooting ducks where now stands the Birch building, owned by T. B. Cabeen and occupied as a drug store. There was then only one small frame house partly finished and sided half way up,



The town improved, and built up smartly in a short time. He recollects being present at the first trial of any importance that was had in the place. The newly-elected justice, by the name of Garner, was the court. The parties to the suit were G. Mossman, plaintiff, and I. Lakey and I. Raynolds, defendants. The attorneys were B. C. Taliaferro, for the plaintiff, and C. M. Harris, of Oquawka, for the defendants. In the course of the trial there was some trouble as to the admissibility of some evidence. The attorneys argued their points before the court. When one of them would get through, the court would admit the evidence. Then the other attorney would make a speech showing the case in a different light, when the court would exclude the evidence. It went on so for some time, when the attorneys as well as the court became much excited and one of the attorneys used some pretty short talk. The court then said "he'd be d——d, if he did not shut up, he'd fine him for contempt." The legal man told the court to "fine and be d——d, for the court wouldn't have sense enough to collect the fine." He says New Boston was a town when he came here. He went over to see the town and the Mississippi. There was quite a crowd there, and every man carried a gun and was followed by one or more dogs. Most of the men wore the coon-skin cap with the tail hanging down the back. After Mr. Wolfe had been here some time he thought he would look around some and see the country. He was anxious to see some timber. These bluffs were comparatively bare of timber at that time. The first growth had been cut off, and he was told of Sugar Grove, north of Aledo, which was represented as nice timber as heart could wish, so he struck out for the grove. On the road to this settlement were then the cabins of H. Riggs, Eb. Cresswell and N. Edwards. The last named is north of the road and is still standing. Another was unoccupied. At the grove he found the Millers, and they were anxious to sell out. They had the Oregon fever badly, but he did not like the location. Mr. Wolfe finally bought in the bottom where he now lives.

Prominent among the young business men of this town, who have by industry and good management succeeded in making a pleasant home and building up a prosperous business, may be mentioned Mr. JOSEPH VENABLE. He was born in the county of Tyrone, Ireland, April 2, 1843. In 1856, in company with his mother and her family, he embarked on the sailing vessel *New Australia* for America. Soon after their arrival they settled in Mercer county, Illinois. At the age of twenty he commenced work as an apprentice with Mr. Charles Clark, in the shop he now owns, and in which he keeps six steady workmen and is turning out a superior class of wagons, carriages and other farm

machinery. November 16, 1865, he was married to Miss Sarah Kremer, a native of Pennsylvania. They have a family of three children, Frederick L., Harry C. and Joseph C. He is a member of Mercer Lodge, No. 210, I.O.O.F., and also of the encampment.

THE NOBLE FAMILY.—Mrs. Harriet W. Noble, who is the widow of James A. Noble, was born in Danville, Columbia county, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1830. She is the daughter of Frederick and Nancy A. Frick. She was married to Mr. Noble June 26, 1849. They had born to them seven children (Alice F. and Harry F. dead). The living are Kate A., Ida J., Hattie N., James L. and M. Adella. Kate, the eldest child, is postmistress at Keithsburg, and has served in that capacity for about twelve years, and it may not be out of place to say, in this connection, that in every particular she has been a model officer. The ability with which Miss Noble has filled her important place of trust proves, beyond the possibility of a doubt, that woman is qualified as well as man to hold positions of responsibility. Hattie has been deputy postmistress for a good many years, and she, also, in connection with another lady, carries on a millinery establishment. The home of Mrs. Noble and family is a pleasant and desirable one. Mr. Noble died March 3, 1862, which placed the responsibility of rearing their family of small children upon the mother, and the result proves that she was equal to the emergency. Mrs. Noble is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Among the business men of Mercer county none occupies a more truly honorable position than WILLIAM GAYLE. The thoughtless masses bestow hasty credit upon men who have only climbed the hill of fortune; but it may be necessary to pass down the sharp declivity on the other side, in the face of all who know them, to discover the proportion of pure gold in their characters. Mr. Gayle is a conspicuous example of that class who have trod the wine-press of business prosperity and adversity, and whose rugged qualities of integrity and fortitude have been proven by severe trial. He is a native of Frankfort, Kentucky, where he was born August 16, 1819, of parents descended from purely English ancestry, that settled in this country prior to the Revolution. In the autumn of 1845 he formed a partnership with James A. Noble, with whom he had been co-clerk in Louisville, and this firm of Noble & Gayle brought a stock goods at once to Oquawka and opened out in trade. The following spring they divided their business, and Mr. Gayle came to Keithsburg with half their stock and began selling goods on the first day of May. This shortly proved to be a superior location, and the next fall the senior partner came here from Oquawka and the business was consolidated



in this place. Early in 1850 Mr. Noble withdrew, and his place was taken by Mr. Gayle's brother-in-law, R. H. Alvis, of Henderson, Kentucky, who was a partner two years. Before his retirement, B. F. Wilson, who had been clerking in the house a number of years, was given a small interest and continued with Mr. Gayle until the crash of 1857, when the latter failed with assets five-fold greater than his liabilities. The exceeding stringency of affairs caused his complete financial ruin. Declining all offers of assistance, he at once engaged in clerking, first in St. Louis and afterward in Keithsburg, and was so employed until 1871 when he again started in trade on his own account, and is now firmly established and doing a large business in grain, flour, coal, lime and cement. Mr. Gayle was liberally educated, chiefly under the private tuition of his father, George Gayle, who was a scholar of scientific and classical attainments. He is a man who enjoys an unconscious exaltation in being always kind and accommodating to all men. September 7, 1851, he was married to Miss Margaret A. Ungles, who has been the mother of ten children by this marriage, four of whom are living.

ALLEN F. GLOVER, tailor, oldest child of Silas and Mary (Robertson) Glover, is a native of Abbeville, South Carolina, where he was born June 17, 1823. At the age of ten he emigrated with his father's family to Ohio. At Fairhaven he learned the tailor's trade, and in 1842 he left the state and the following year settled at Oquawka. In the spring of 1846 he removed to Keithsburg, and next year was married to Miss Sarah L., youngest daughter of Jesse and Christinja Brewer. Her birthplace was Wayne county, Indiana, where she was born in 1827. Her parents were originally from North Carolina, and came to this county in 1835 and settled on the farm now owned by Solomon Wolf, northeast of Keithsburg. This wife died without issue in 1850, and three years afterward he was married a second time to Miss Minerva Catlin, who bore him six children and died in 1873. In 1854 Mr. Glover removed to Wisconsin, staying there two years. During some eighteen years after his return he was tending grocery store as clerk; since that time he has worked at his trade. About eight years ago he united with the Methodist church and is now one of the stewards. He has been a member of Mercer Lodge, No. 210, I.O.O.F.; he has passed all the chairs and been representative to the grand lodge. In 1864 he was "raised" in Robert Burns Lodge, No. 113, A.F.A.M., and has been Secretary of that lodge since. He has been elected to the offices of assessor and justice of the peace; the latter proving distasteful he resigned it. He affiliates politically with the republicans. His children have been Irene, who died at the

age of nineteen ; Emma ; Ida, now Mrs. Seth Chandler ; Charlie, George, and Bell (dead).

JOHN HEATON was born at Xenia, Ohio, November 2, 1804. His father was John, son of Jonah Heaton of Bryant's Station, Kentucky, who was from Connecticut, and who, history says, made the first gun ever manufactured in the former state. Jonah's son John was educated by his uncle Daniel, and was a prominent man in his county, holding the office of county commissioner and justice of the peace for twenty-two consecutive years. James Heaton worked at and thoroughly learned the trade of his father, that of a blacksmith and gunsmith. In the spring of 1826 (May 25), he was married to Miss Nancy Henry, daughter of William Henry, who was a first cousin to Patrick Henry, of Virginia. It may be proper here to state that while Patrick was a democrat of the Jefferson school, William was a federalist and did not sympathize with him as his descendants have done. Mrs. Heaton is a woman of great practical ability and native good sense, who believes that the patent of real royalty belongs to those who do right and live by industry. They have lived a long and useful life. Fifty-six years have they passed together, and in this time reared a large family of children : John, of Red Bluff, California, the eldest, and William Henry, the second child, now of Keithsburg, being the only sons of six born to them now living. George died in Texas at the age of forty-three ; James at the age of eleven ; Chauncy, when eight months old ; and his twin brother Oliver at the same age. Their six daughters are all living. These are : Sarah Salisbury, at Red Oak, Iowa ; Maria Adair, in Hutchinson county, Dakota ; Marienne Phares, at Keithsburg (with whom Mr. and Mrs. Heaton make their home) ; Margaret Hanna, at Fort Scott, Kansas ; Mattie Hanna, at Oquawka ; and Sippie Wolff, at Clarinda, Iowa. Mr. Heaton was a great lover of stock, and when first married fenced a tract of 3,000 acres on the head of the Little Miami river in Clark county, Ohio, where he kept in pasture several thousand head of cattle. In 1836 he came to Edgar county, Illinois, and engaged in business. In 1842 he moved to the New Purchase in Iowa. In the fall of 1843 he came to Henderson county, Illinois, opposite the then small town of Burlington. In the spring of that year he settled on a farm on the Ellison, in Warren county, and the same season bought the farm where the town of Ellison now stands. In the fall of 1848, wanting better facilities for schooling his children, he came to Keithsburg, where he lived till the spring of 1852, when he moved to Bald Bluff. There he and his boys made a large farm and gratified that old love of stock by raising cattle, hogs and horses. In 1868 William went to Abingdon,



Knox county, and the next year George went to Texas. It was then that he gave up the farm and moved to Keithsburg, where he now has a pleasant home and varies his exercise every day with a walk down town. He is perhaps the best known man in the county. He has always lived a quiet, unassuming life, has worked hard and aimed to deal fairly with all who have had intercourse with him. He is in religion a predestinarian Baptist, in politics a democrat, having cast his first vote for Andrew Jackson in 1828, and adhered to that school ever since. Like most of the early settlers, Mr. Heaton's home was the abode of hospitality, and friend or stranger who came his way was alike welcome to share its refreshments. In his old age he still retains his love of society, and enjoys recounting the incidents and adventures of the past. This worthy couple are never happier than when their house is full of their children and grandchildren, of whom they have a great number.

From youth to age this wedded pair  
 Have journeyed on together —  
 Not always gentle was the wind,  
 Nor always bland the weather ;  
 Yet few and light have been their cares,  
 And light and few their crosses,  
 And God has shown his pitying face  
 Amid their griefs and losses.  
 Oh, sore the travel and the toil  
 To reach the roseate present,  
 Had no affection cheered the way  
 And made the journey pleasant.

What if the cheek has lost its bloom,  
 The eye its olden lustre —  
 What if the locks are thinned and blanched  
 Which on the temples cluster —  
 Still hope is fresh and hearts are young,  
 And love is unabated,  
 Aud men and angels hail to-day  
 The married and the mated.

The loveliest thing on earth is love,  
 The loveliest and the purest ;  
 The dearest thing on earth is love,  
 The dearest and the surest ;  
 And not alone is heavenly sweet  
 The honey of its kisses :  
 The very tears of love are sweet,  
 Its very pangs are blisses ;  
 And they who love with love the best,  
 The fondest and the strongest —  
 Love with the loveliest love of all —  
 Are they who love the longest.

Ah! Love's dear veterans well deserve  
 Our greetings and our praises,  
 Since where we looked for Winter's snows  
 They point to Spring's sweet daisies;  
 Since, when the sea is smooth and fair,  
 Or black the tide is flowing,  
 Through all the voyage of the years  
 They keep their fond hearts glowing;  
 Since, though the frame may show the trace  
 Of many a blight and fever,  
 The teeming vineyards of the soul  
 Are fresh and green as ever;  
 Since, through the long sweet married days  
 Their faith and fervor proving,  
 They make a noble thing of life,  
 A godlike thing of loving.

Oh, happy, true and honored pair!  
 Oh, ever leal and loyal!  
 We pay you willing court to-day,  
 For love has made you royal!  
 All gentle thoughts and hopes are yours,  
 All wishes sweet and tender —  
 What richer tributes can we bring,  
 What worthier homage render?  
 God's cherubs still your steps attend,  
 His peace your fond hearts strengthen,  
 As o'er the sky above your heads  
 The evening shadows lengthen;  
 And when the night comes on, at last,  
 And brings its welcome slumber,  
 Sweet angels from the wondrous host  
 Which none may name or number,  
 Shall lead your still united souls  
 Through shining arch and portal,  
 To gardens fair and pastures green,  
 Where love shall be immortal!

JEROME A. SWEZY, deceased, was born in Goshen, Orange county, New York, August 15, 1815. He removed to Quincy, Illinois, in an early day, and was there married to Miss Mary J. Atkinson October 12, 1843. He removed to Oquawka in 1846, where he engaged in merchandising till 1850, when he started on an overland trip to California taking with him two four-horse teams and twelve men. He remained in California till the following December, when he started home via the Isthmus, on a passenger steamer. At Grenada, Central America, he was taken down with a severe fever and remained there till the following June. When he reached his home he was still in feeble health, and with a view to improving it, went with his wife



to his boyhood home in New York. In 1852, having regained his health, he returned and settled in Keithsburg. During his thirty years residence here, he was in business as book-keeper, shipper, lumber and real estate dealer. He died March 26, 1882. His wife and six children survive him. The latter are: Emma, wife of C. T. Combs; Jessie C.; Somerville E., wife of H. C. Cook, whose biography follows; Hattie E.; Georgia A.; and Huber.

HENRY CHALMERS COOK was born in McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, February 7, 1856, where he grew to manhood. He served an apprenticeship of three years in the office of the "Fulton Republican" at McConnellsburg. In 1876 he came to Illinois and for three years worked at his trade of printer at Princeton. In the spring of 1879 he came to Keithsburg, where he engaged as foreman in the "News" office for W. H. Heaton. In June, 1881, he formed a partnership with R. Wolfe and started the "Keithsburg Times." In December following he sold his interest to his partner and returned to his former place in the "News" office. August 19, 1880, he was united in marriage with Miss Swezy. They have one child, Michael Jerome, born September 14, 1881.

WILLIAM D. REYNOLDS, stock dealer, was born in Pennsylvania, September 14, 1841. His parents, William C. and Catharine A. (Tiger) Reynolds, removed to Mercer county in 1846, and settled in Ohio Grove township, where they early became identified with the affairs of the county. Mr. Reynolds, Sr., remained here till the spring of 1882, when he sold out and went to reside with his daughter in Iowa. Young William received his education at the pioneer schools of this county's early history, as well as a thorough knowledge of farm labor. In 1861 he responded to the President's call for men to preserve the honor of their country's flag and became a member of company A, 30th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. During the service he was twice wounded, first at Belmont, Missouri, and afterward at Fort Donelson, and was soon after discharged on account of disability. He was married February 11, 1869, to Miss Sarah E., daughter of Lewis and Maria Sponsler, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Mercer county in 1860. They are the parents of six children living: Maud E., Clara A., Lora E. (died March 22, 1882), Lewis G., Guss, Glenn, and Lucy. Mr. Reynolds is now a resident of the town of Keithsburg, but expects to remove to his farm of 160 acres in Edwards county, Kansas.

JOHN J. HAWKINS, retired farmer, was born in Bath county, Kentucky, September 7, 1829, and is the son of Thomas and Malinda Hawkins. In 1847 they came to Illinois and settled in Abington town-

ship, Mercer county, where he engaged in farming. December 1, 1850, he was united in marriage with Miss Maria E., daughter of Russell Wordin, Esq., an early settler of Mercer county. She was born in the State of New York, June 7, 1831. They are the parents of three children, as follows: Lucy, wife of Mr. A. P. Winslow, who is a conductor on the Central Pacific railroad and resides at Ogden, Utah; Alvis T., and Albert D., on the farm near Keithsburg. They are both members of the Masonic fraternity. Mr. Hawkins is a member of Robert Burns Lodge, No. 113, Illinois Chapter, No. 17, and Galesburg Commandery, No. 8. A few years after his marriage Mr. Hawkins removed to the north part of Henderson county, where he lived till 1878, when he took up his residence in Keithsburg. By hard work and honest industry he has accumulated, besides his town property, 466 acres of farming land.

EDWARD OTT, blacksmith, was born in Henderson county, Illinois, March 23, 1848, and was left an orphan when about eleven years old. In December, 1862, when but a little over fourteen years of age, he enlisted in the war for the Union as a member of the 12th Illinois cavalry and followed the fortunes of war till May, 1866. On returning home he engaged in the butcher business, but soon after turned his attention to learning the trade of blacksmith and permanently located in Keithsburg. February 26, 1875, he was married to Miss Sarah E. Hall, of Henderson county, Illinois. They have two children: Mary C. and William C.

THOMAS MARLATT, retired farmer, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, September 12, 1824. His father was a farmer and reared his children to that hardy and honorable occupation. Mr. Marlatt obtained such an education as the common schools of his boyhood days afforded. At the age of twenty-one he began for himself at farming. In 1849 he came to Mercer county, where he permanently located and engaged in farming and stock raising. February 2, 1854, he was united in marriage with Miss Caroline, daughter of James M. and Elizabeth (Ellis) Dryden. She was born in Highland county, Ohio, September 4, 1834, and came to Mercer county in 1853. They are the parents of Alta I., Adella V., Jessie F., and two children deceased. On August 17, 1870, Mr. Marlatt met with a painful misfortune, this being no less than the instant loss of his eyesight, caused by a kick in his face from a mule. The following year he gave up farming and took up his residence in Keithsburg, where he is now (1882) enjoying the comforts of a very pleasant home. Early in life he became a member of the United Brethren church; in 1853 was licensed to preach, and is now a member of Illinois annual conference.



His parents are of English and German ancestry, and were born in Burkley county, Virginia. The father, Thomas Marlatt, was born in April, 1792, and the mother, Miss Elizabeth Bellar, in 1799. They reared a family of twelve children : seven sons and five daughters. In 1823 they removed to Wayne county, Indiana, where they resided till the time of their death after a life of industry and usefulness. He died in March, 1877, and she in March, 1875. They were consistent members of the United Brethren church.

THOMAS S. CUMMINS, justice of the peace, notary, and insurance agent, Keithsburg, was born February 23, 1836, in New Concord, Muskingum county, Ohio, and was the son of David R. and Sarah (Speer) Cummins. In 1851 the family sold their home and embarked at Wheeling, Virginia, and came by river transportation to Keithsburg, arriving in April. They lived that summer in Ohio Grove township, where Mr. Cummins had an uncle, Richard Cummins, who had emigrated as early as 1836 and was one of the first settlers. Most of the family fell sick of the ague, and getting dissatisfied with the country, returned in the fall to Ohio. They remained there but two weeks, when they turned their faces again to the west and came to Granville, Putnam county, Illinois. Next summer their experience with ague was repeated, and when autumn came they were so much disheartened by the gloomy situation and prospect that they went back again to their old home in Ohio, where they remained till 1854. That year they came to Keithsburg, this time by team, and Mr. Cummins has lived in Mercer county since. He was engaged from that time till 1866 as warehouseman and shipping clerk. From that year till 1873 he was constable ; he was then elected justice of the peace and has held the office continuously until this time. He has been notary public since 1874 ; township clerk since 1873, excepting in the year 1877, and village clerk the last two years. In 1874 he began doing an insurance business, and now represents the Home company of New York. His marriage with Miss Martha Knight was celebrated September 3, 1857. Their two daughters are Mary Etta and Maggie Belle. The former is the widow of John M. Wade, recently deceased ; she and her mother are communicants in the Methodist church. Mr. Cummins has always taken much interest in local politics and is a liberal-minded democrat.

ALVIS HARDIN was born in Mercer county, Illinois, September 20, 1852. He is the son of B. F. and Minerva Hardin. He was married to Miss Nettie Doak January 1, 1882. Mrs. Hardin is the daughter of Matthew and Sarah A. Doak. Mr. Hardin is a farmer.

In the fall of 1853 CHARLES J. SIMPSON came from Ohio and permanently located in the village of Keithsburg, where he now enjoys the comforts of a pleasant home. He was born in Preble county, Ohio, February 22, 1823. He is a son of Aaron and Hannah (Smith) Simpson, who were natives of New Jersey, and are of Scotch and English ancestry. He was bred a farmer. May 2, 1844, he married Barbara, daughter of John and Dorothea (Mowen) Beaver. She was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, April 19, 1827. In 1860 Mr. Simpson began the practice of veterinary surgery in which he has had good success. They have four children, Laura, Daniel A., who has a brilliant war record, William B., and Pauline G. wife of E. Loosley. Mr. Simpson is a member of the I.O.O.F., lodge No. 210.

JOHN DUNN, butcher, was born in Pennsylvania February 1, 1844, and is a son of Amos and Catherine (Cameron) Dunn. In 1853 he with his parents embarked on the steamer New York at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for Keithsburg, Illinois, and made the entire trip without change. They at once went to Ohio Grove township where they purchased a farm and began to make a home for themselves. They first camped out till they could build a cabin. Here John grew up to manhood with but little means of obtaining an education. In August, 1862, he enlisted in company G, 102d Ill. Vol. Inf., and for the next three years devoted his time in the defense of his country's flag. At the battle of Resacca, Georgia, he was wounded in the hips and was placed in the hospital for treatment, from which he was discharged June 22, 1865, and returned to Keithsburg. March 21, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Maria McPherren, who was born in Suez township, Mercer county, March 1, 1843. They are the parents of Catharine R., Amos D., and Thomas, and three deceased. After his marriage Mr. Dunn engaged in farming, but on account of his wound disabling him for farm labor he abandoned farming and bought an interest in a coal mine and five years later sold out and came to Keithsburg, where he still resides engaged in the butcher business. He is a member of the I.O.O.F., lodge No. 210.

ROBERT C. HUMBERT, merchant, is a son of Emanuel and Frances (McReynolds) Humbert; was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, January 26, 1831; removed with his parents to Fountain county, Indiana, when about three years of age, where at the age of sixteen he became an apprentice as bricklayer and plasterer. In 1853 he came to Mercer county, Illinois, and engaged in working at his trade in Keithsburg till 1857, when he became a merchant in the dry goods line, following the business till 1864. At that time Mr. Humbert arranged to go west as far as Montana. His object was partly speculative but more particularly



for the benefit of an invalid brother-in-law, George Gore, who was suffering with that dreaded disease consumption, who while there regained his health. On their way out they purchased a stock of goods which they afterward lost, being attacked by Indians and robbed. The next year Mr. Humbert returned to his home in Keithsburg where he has since had a continuous residence, except three years spent on his farm in Henderson county. November 26, 1857, Mr. Humbert was united in marriage with Miss Sarah, daughter of Philip Gore, Esq., an early settler of this county. She was born in Maryland, January 31, 1839. They are the parents of seven children: Harry P., George C., Edward E., James F., Fannie D., Bart G., and Robert R. Mr. Humbert is a member of Robert Burns Lodge, No. 113, Illinois Chapter, No. 17, and Galesburg Commandary, No. 8.

JOHN C. HUMPHREY, harness maker, is a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, and was born February 12, 1827. He was reared on the farm and educated in the common schools of his native state. In 1854 he made a trip to California, where he remained nearly three years. Soon after his return home he came to Keithsburg, and in company with Mr. Samuel Evans, engaged in the business he now follows. September 2, 1858, he married Miss Amanda, daughter of Jacob Wolf, a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, who with her parents came to Illinois in 1856. They are the parents of eight children: Mary, Harry W., Willis M., Ida, Ernest L., Mark J., Edward F., and Eva B.

CLARENCE S. FRICK, grain dealer, is a son of Benjamin P. and Annie E. (Stewart) Frick, who are well known and prominently connected in this county. He was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, January 2, 1848, and came to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1855, with his parents. His education was principally obtained in Keithsburg, though he attended several terms of high school in Monmouth, Illinois. In 1872 he engaged in merchandising and grain buying in Keithsburg under the firm name of C. A. Frick & Bros. He was also for a time connected with the Farmers' National Bank, of this place, as book-keeper. In 1881 he began his present business of buying and shipping grain. February 2, 1876, he was united in marriage with Miss Nellie Ellett, a daughter of Benjamin D. and Orpha (Myers) Ellett, early settlers of Keithsburg. They have one child, George Henry, born February 17, 1879. Mr. Frick is a member of Mercer Lodge, No. 210, I.O.O.F.

Captain Wycoff's father was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in 1793, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. His wife was a Miss Susan Peairs. Soon after his marriage he removed to

Muskingum county, Ohio, where he reared a family of nine children, two sons and seven daughters. He died in 1857, and his old and honored wife is still (1882) living at her old home in Ohio. Our subject, Captain J. P. Wycoff, is eldest son and second child. He was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, September 18, 1819, and was reared on the farm with but limited educational advantages. December 23, 1840, he was united in marriage with Miss Matilda Davis, of the same county. Her parents were Samuel and Mary (Geyer) Davis, who were also natives of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. The year after his marriage Mr. Wycoff removed to Allen county, near Fort Wayne, Indiana, and settled in the tall timber, and there hewed out for himself a home on land previously entered by his father. In 1855 he bought a farm in Sec. 11, T. 13, R. 5, Keithsburg township, and in 1856 sold his home in Indiana and moved to his new home, which he has since built up to be one of the most pleasant in the county, and contains 260 acres. In August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in company G, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., to which he was at once elected captain, but in December of the same year was forced to resign on account of sickness. Mr. Wycoff has been a member of the Presbyterian church since the age of seventeen and an elder for the past thirty years. He has one son (an only child), Albert R., born January 1, 1842. His means for obtaining an education were quite limited, but by extensive reading, and being a close observer, he has gained a good business education. October 17, 1861, he was married to Miss Myra, daughter of George and Nancy (Maxfield) Jay. She was born in Mercer county, Illinois, November 29, 1843, and is one of this county's literary ladies. They have a family of three interesting children: Earl J., Lura D., and Ethlin Fern. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active part in its affairs.

To the soldier who dared death that a great nation with all its legitimate institutions might live, not only belongs praise, but the gratitude of a whole people. The pages of future history will not shine with examples of generalship alone, but the captain, his subordinates and privates, who fought in the thickest carnage, will lend their light to future heroes. Captain DAVID M. HOLSTED, son of David and Nancy (Allshaver) Holsted, was born in Oneida county, New York, July 10, 1832. He resided on a farm till fifteen years of age, receiving a common school education. He early engaged in the manufacture of brick. In 1850 he became foreman of the Cleveland & Ohio Railroad Construction Company, and soon after became a contractor. In 1856 he came to Illinois. In 1861, when war's cruel tongue called for soldiery, he, in company with Col. R. G.



Ingersoll, recruited the 11th reg. Ill. cavalry, Col. Ingersoll receiving the command. In 1882 Mr. Holsted aided in raising the 85th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., whose commander was Col. Moore. Mr. Holsted volunteered as 1st lieutenant. For heroic conduct at the battle of Stone river, Gov. Yates commissioned him captain. At the battle of Chickamauga he was wounded, necessitating his resignation. For four months he was unable to feed himself; for one year he was unable to step up six inches high, and disabled for work a year longer. After regaining his health he resumed contracting, this time on the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad. In 1873 he came to Keithsburg, and, in company with J. K. Hornish, contracted to build the Keithsburg & Eastern narrow-gauge railroad, which, on account of the financial crash of 1873, is yet unbuilt. In 1857 he became a member of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, and now holds his membership in Mason Lodge, 143. He is also a member of the encampment at Keithsburg, and a member of the Order of the Red Cross organization of Fairfield, Iowa. Mr. Holsted was married March 28, 1849, to Miss Eveline L., daughter of Orrin Fenton, Esq., of Cleveland, Ohio. They have one child living, Miss Lottie.

HUGH SMITH SCOTT, farmer, was born in Washington county, Virginia, July 20, 1807, and is the son of Samuel and Jane (Hutton) Scott. He was reared a farmer. His education was received in the pioneer schools of Virginia. September 18, 1828, a few months after obtaining majority he was united in marriage with Sarah, daughter of James and Jane (Clark) Lion, also a native of the same county. Soon after marriage they emigrated to Indiana, and settled in Fountain county, remaining there until 1856. In that year they again removed, this time to find a final resting place in Mercer county, where he settled on a farm previously purchased of Mr. Gayle. While a resident of Indiana, in 1845, Mr. Scott's friends put him forward as a candidate on the democratic ticket for representative in the state legislature, to which office he was elected by a large majority. As an evidence of his popularity, the township in which he resided, that usually gave a democratic majority of about 80, gave him the compliment of 144 majority. He was also twice elected county assessor and once county collector of Fountain county. He has also held numerous other offices of honor and trust, among which have been that of supervisor of Keithsburg township, and also of justice of the peace for eight years. He has been prominently identified with the Methodist church of Keithsburg since his residence here. Of his large family, Samuel, Jane, wife of Robert Campbell, of Fountain county, Indiana, Lilburn



*Dennis Minto*





S., Angeline T., Julia C., wife of C. Dryden, Howard and Florilla, wife of William Stewart, are living. Susan is deceased.

SAMUEL SCOTT, farmer and stock raiser, is a son of Hugh S. and Sarah (Lion) Scott. He was born in Fountain county, Indiana, November 21, 1829, and was reared principally at farming. He received the best education obtainable in the early schools of his native state. Early in life he made clerking his business for five years, and spent two years in the state auditor's office at Indianapolis. In 1855 he came to Mercer county and engaged in farming, making that his permanent business. October 1, 1857, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah E., daughter of John McH. and Margaret (Cramer) Wilson, a native of Michigan, who came to Mercer county when about six months old. She was born August 26, 1836. They are the parents of five children, viz: Guy C., Edgar S., Carrie W., John McH., and Hugh M. Mr. Scott is a member of the masonic fraternity, and holds his membership in Robert Burns Lodge, No. 113. He is a live, energetic business man, and one whom it would be well for our young men to pattern after.

MR. C. S. ORTH, who was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, in 1835, educated at Franklin and Marshall colleges, at Mercersburg, in the same state, emigrated to Iowa City in 1857; came the next year to Keithsburg where he located in general merchandising in company with N. B. Cox. In 1862 the latter was replaced by J. P. Reed, who died in 1866; afterward Mr. Orth continued in the same line of trade with M. A. Weaver as partner, and in 1877 he closed up his business in the place. He is now in trade at Bedford and Clarinda, Iowa, but his family reside in Keithsburg. He has been closely identified with the history and devotedly attached to the interests of this place since he settled here, and a public-spirited supporter of every worthy undertaking. He was president of the town board one year, and for seven years from 1874 was a director of the public school, a position in which he won credit and popularity for very efficient and acknowledged valuable services. In the railroad questions which have agitated the people of this section, he has taken a full share of interest and exhibited his well-known vigilance and activity. He has sometimes directed his influence and energies against these as well as other enterprises, and time has generally confirmed his judgment and foresight. His marriage with Miss Fanny M., daughter of Abram B. Sheriff, a pioneer settler of Mercer county, took place in 1863. They are the parents of eight living children.

GEORGE W. WHITING, boot and shoe dealer, was born in Cambridgeshire, England, September 27, 1834, and was the eldest son of



William and Sarah (Gothard) Whiting. His father was a native of Hadnam, England, where he was born June 12, 1814, and his mother was born in the same place June 17, 1815. This couple was joined in marriage May 11, 1833. In 1837 the family emigrated to the United States, in the sailing vessel Neptune, and having settled at Lockport, New York, Mr. Whiting's father began manufacturing boots and shoes in a small way. By close attention to his trade his business grew into a large manufacturing house in which, after a few years, he employed from thirty to forty men. In 1854 he lost his property by fire, and in October of the same year he brought his family to Mercer county, where he arrived on the 23d of the month. He settled in Keithsburg and died in this place September 26, 1879. His wife preceded him to her final rest January 18, 1877. The subject of this notice remained at home with his father and learned the shoemaker's trade. In March, 1855, he also came to Keithsburg with his newly-married wife, and at once engaged in the boot and shoe trade, which he has built up to its present prosperous condition. His marriage with Miss Sarah A. Wilson occurred in Lockport, New York, September 7, 1854. She was born at Saratoga May 1, 1835. Mr. Whiting ranks with the foremost and most public spirited men of his township, and his family is justly esteemed for their social qualities and literary tastes.

WILLIAM L. RANGE is a son of Christian and Louisa (Block) Range, and was born and reared a Hessian, in what is now a province of Prussia. His father was a baker by trade, and he was reared to that business. His education was principally obtained in the common schools. September 24, 1858, he was married to Miss Caroline Nagle, a native of the same place. On the 4th of October following they left their native home to seek one in America, and after a perilous voyage of three months on the sailing vessel Aristiezer, landed in New York January 4, 1859. During their last four weeks on the sea they were reduced almost to a point of starvation, the ship having gone out of her course during the terrible storms that prevailed in the early part of the voyage. After landing in New York they at once came on to Rock Island, Illinois, where they remained about one year, when they came to Mercer county, and soon after permanently located in Keithsburg and established a bakery and restaurant, making the same their business through life. They are the parents of five children: Karl A. W. C., Lewis W., Emma A., Eda L., and William F. They are members of the Lutheran Church of Rock Island, where the older ones of the children have been sent to be educated and confirmed.

Mr. Range was born November 24, 1834, and Mrs Range December 19, 1832. He is a member of Mercer Lodge, No. 210, I.O.O.F.

DR. SAMUEL KELLEY, physician and surgeon, is a native of New Jersey, though he was reared in Ohio, his parents moving to Cincinnati when he was quite young. He was born February 17, 1812, and at the age of about twenty began the study of law at Lexington, Kentucky, and was admitted to the bar at Lafayette, Indiana, where he had read law for nine months with Hon. John Petit and Hon. Godlove Orth, in 1841. After practicing law a short time he turned his attention to the study of medicine, which he successfully practiced in Ohio and Indiana, the last twelve years prior to 1859 being spent in the latter state. In Fountain county he was united in marriage with Miss Frances E., daughter of Mr. David Parrott, September 6, 1849. In 1859 Dr. Kelley came to Mercer county, Illinois, where he has continued in the practice of his profession, and has been a citizen of Keithsburg, where he is enjoying the society of his many warm friends. He has one son, Wilber, born in Fountain county, Indiana, October 27, 1858. He is a graduate of the Physicians and Surgeons Medical College of Keokuk, Iowa, where he received his diploma February 28, 1882.

According to well authenticated tradition the Campbells were Scotch Highlanders connected with the House of Argyle. During the period of religious persecution they fled to the north of Ireland where John Campbell was born, reared and married, and where to him his children were born. In the spring of 1849 he with his wife Catherine (McKee) emigrated to the United States, sailing in the Gertrude. After landing on the American shores they at once came on to Illinois, settling in Rock Island, where Mr. Campbell died from sun stroke in 1851. Mrs. Campbell died in 1857, leaving a family of eight children. Hugh Campbell, the eldest son, was born in county Down, Ireland, April 7, 1831. Soon after settling in Rock Island he became an apprentice to a wagon and carriage maker. After completing the trade in 1860 he came to Keithsburg with a view of following his trade in this place, which, however, was abandoned at the outbreak of the rebellion in 1861, when he enlisted in company I, 17th Ill. Vol. Inf. After following the fortunes of war three years and going safely through a number of hard fought battles he was honorably discharged and returned to Keithsburg, where he permanently settled and engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages. October 3, 1867, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Mary C. Ball, widow of Lieut. L. T. Ball, of company H, 84th Ill. Vol. Inf., killed in the late war December 31, 1862. Mr. Campbell has been for a number of years a member of the city council, and his



good judgment and thorough business principles have won for him many warm friends. Two other sons of John Campbell, John and William, are extensive farmers of Otoe county, Nebraska, the latter of whom was elected in 1881 state senator on the republican ticket. Samuel was killed at Atlanta, Georgia. Alexander's sketch appears elsewhere in this work. There were also three daughters: Mary, widow of William Collins; Elizabeth, widow of William Walker, who is now the mother of eight sons; and Jane, wife of Samuel Warnock. The first two are now residents of Nebraska, the last of Kansas. Their father was born August 14, 1799, and their grandfather, Hugh Campbell, September 22, 1755.

CHARLES A. MERTZ, lumber dealer, was born in the kingdom of Bavaria, January 30, 1844. His father died when he was four years old, and in 1854 the widowed mother, taking her little family, came to America in the sailing vessel *Magdalin*, and settled in Rochester, New York. After a short residence there they went to Wisconsin. In 1861 our subject returned to New York, and in January, 1853, enlisted in company G, 159th N. Y. Vols., being a recruit in that regiment. The first considerable battle in which he was a participant was that of the Wilderness; then followed in rapid succession Spottsylvania, the North Anna, Paumunky River, Cold Harbor, and the battle in front of Petersburg, up to August 25th, in all of which he was engaged. On the last date he was captured at Reams' station on the Weldon railroad with 2,600 others. He was confined first at Petersburg, then removed to Libby prison, and from there to Belle Isle. In the last two places he spent three months. He was taken next to Salisbury, where he remained till February, 1865, when there began a general perambulation of prisoners in that region of the Confederacy on account of the movements of Gen. Sherman's army. From Salisbury he went to Columbia and stayed there two weeks; then about as much time was passed in Charleston; a stop of a few days was made in Raleigh; and then the detachment went on to Jamestown, North Carolina, where Mr. Mertz and eight others made their successful escape from a camp of 8,000 by wading neck deep in water past the rebel sentinel and swimming the rest of the way for a mile. From thence his progress to the Union lines was a repetition of the experience of every escaped prisoner: he was fed and piloted by negroes, and he hid and wandered about in racking fear and anxiety for three long weeks, and traveled 240 miles when the squad struck the 16th N. Y. cavalry in the neighborhood of Burkesville Junction, Virginia. When Mr. Mertz was captured he weighed 165 pounds; when he got back into the Union camp his weight was 98 pounds. His prison life forms a chapter

of thrilling experiences and terrible sufferings, while he was the helpless witness of the most atrocious diabolism in the treatment of Union prisoners that ever blackened the page of human history. When the 159th was mustered out in May, 1865, Mr. Mertz was transferred to company H, 10th N. Y. Inf., in which he completed his term of service and was discharged at New York city in August following. He came directly to Mercer county, but shortly after went to the oil regions of Pennsylvania and stayed a little while, after which he went west in the employ of the Union Pacific Railway Company. In 1871 he returned to this county and settled in Keithsburg, engaging in the furniture trade with C. C. Wordin, the present gentlemanly clerk of the county court. In May, 1880, he embarked in the lumber business with his brother, their place of trade being on the corner Washington and Third streets. Besides a saw-mill here they have another on the Iowa side above New Boston. October 27, 1873, he celebrated his nuptials with Augusta Belle, daughter of H. G. Calhoun. She was born in Keithsburg, November 29, 1862. They have one child, Ora B., born September 13, 1874. Mr. Mertz is a member of Robert Burns Lodge, No. 113, Illinois Chapter, No. 17, and Galesburg Commandery, No. 8. Lewis L. Mertz, brother of the above, was born also in Bavaria, February 11, 1847, and emigrated to this country with the rest of the family. On February 1, 1864, he enlisted at Rochester, New York, in Battery L, 1st N. Y. Light Artillery, and served until mustered out at Elmira, June 19, 1865. Beginning with the battle of the Wilderness, he fought throughout the campaign following up to the surrender of Lee. At the age of twelve he entered the Woodbury Engine Works, where he learned the trade of an engineer, which he has followed in different places, but particularly in the oil regions of Pennsylvania. In December, 1865, he came to Keithsburg and sold furniture with his brother a short while; in 1867 he engaged with a surveying party on the Union Pacific railway; in 1868 he went into the gold mines of Montana, where he remained nearly four years. He was married to Miss Janet, daughter of Daniel Keith, July 6, 1871. She was born in this place in September, 1849. They settled on a farm of 320 acres in Boone county, Iowa, and lived there six years. In May, 1880, Mr. Mertz removed with his family to Keithsburg, where he has since been engaged in the furniture and lumber business. He is a Royal Arch Mason. His four children are: Sibyl J., Jacob R., William B., Elizabeth M. The father of these brothers was named John J. Mertz, and was a native of Bavaria, where he was born in the year 1800. In early life he learned the trade of a cooper, but later he became quite wealthy, and engaged



in farming. In the Revolution of 1848, he lost his property by signing with other men, and in the same year died. The mother, Mather Mina (Watchter), born in 1805, has her home with her children in this place.

DENNIS MURTO, merchant, was born in Sligo county, Ireland, January 1, 1882, and is the third son of a family of six children whose father died early in life, leaving them to the care of their widowed mother, who soon after sold out her interest there and went to England, where she remained till August 1860. She then came to America, bringing her three daughters. Dennis, the subject of this notice, left England in a full clipper American sailing vessel, the Martha Greenleaf, and after a voyage of nineteen weeks arrived in New Orleans April 4, 1858. He at once pushed on up the Mississippi river to Davenport, Iowa, but soon returned to Oquawka, Illinois, and hired out to work for Mr. C. W. Harris, beginning at \$10 per month, and remained for three years. He was also for a short time engaged in driving stage and carrying the mail from Sagetown to Keithsburg. On August 14, 1862, being refused a place in the ranks of the army in the war for the Union, he started for California, from where he returned to Keithsburg in October, 1865, and at once engaged as a day laborer. In 1874, in company with his brother, he began the mercantile business in the grocery line, and in 1880 he became sole owner of his present prosperous business. Besides his town property he owns two good farms in Mercer county. December 6, 1865, he married Miss Bridget Gilrain, a native of Ireland, by whom he has one child, Mary Rose.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL was born June 22, 1846, in county Down, Ireland, from whence three years later he came with his parents to America and settled in Rock Island, Illinois. In the early part of the late war, though only sixteen years of age, he enlisted in company D, 11th Iowa Inf.; and carried a gun three years. At the end of this time he re-enlisted and was chosen color-bearer, and carried the old flag to the end of the war, when he was honorably discharged, having served his country as a soldier four years before he was twenty-one. On the 23d of July, 1864, in front of Atlanta, his brother Samuel was killed while fighting by his side. After his return from the war Mr. Campbell came to Keithsburg and learned the trade of wagon and carriage making, which business he followed until 1878, when he was appointed mail agent on the Galva and Keithsburg route of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, which position he has since held. December 16, 1870, he was united in marriage with Sarah A., daughter of John and Hannah (Wilson) Nevius, early settlers

of Mercer county. She was born in Ohio, February 19, 1848, but was reared in Keithsburg. They have a family of five children: Daisy L., Walter C., Maud G., Mabel N. and Harry L.

DR. GEORGE B. SAPP, dentist, was born in Clermont county, Ohio, July 23, 1832. He received the greater part of his education in a log school-house in his native county. In 1854 he came to Illinois. In 1860 he began studying in Decatur, where he completed a course of study he had previously begun. In 1865 he came to Mercer county and began the practice of his profession. The doctor has been twice married. His first marriage was in 1860, but death soon deprived him of his partner. His second marriage was on June 22, 1871, to Miss Norah Plesants. They have three children, whose names in the order of their ages are: Ula, Rosa G., and George B.

JOHN HELWIG, butcher, is a son of Christopher Helwig, and was born in Germany December 26, 1839. In 1856 he emigrated with his parents to America, and with them settled in Dunkirk, in the State of New York, where the most of the family and his parents still reside. In 1868 he came to Illinois and settled in Hancock county, where he remained till 1875, when he came to Keithsburg and engaged in his present business. Since his residence in Keithsburg he has been three times elected as one of the town board, and is one of the school directors. He is a member of Mercer Lodge, No. 210, I.O.O.F., and of Encampment No. 89. May 5, 1861, he was united in marriage to Miss Katharine Hacker, a native of Bavaria. They have four children: John L., Frank W., Lewis A., and Charles.

CHARLES G. SLOCUMB, lumber dealer, was born at Albany, Whiteside county, Illinois, January 1, 1843, and is a son of Mr. Alfred Slocumb, an old and well known settler of that county, who helped to lay out the town of Albany. He died there September 9, 1860, after a life of usefulness and industry. Charles, the subject of this sketch, was reared as most boys in a new country, at hard work, with but limited means of obtaining an education, yet by industry and close application to study he has acquired a good business education. In 1865 he went into the army, and after his return home engaged in merchandising at Havana, Mason county, Illinois. This he followed but a short time when he sold out and went to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, where he engaged in the manufacture of brick, which he followed about three years. After this he engaged in boating on the Mississippi river. In 1876 he came to Keithsburg, where he permanently located, and engaged in the lumber business. He also owns a mill here for the manufacture of lumber. March 20, 1875, he was united in marriage



with Miss Maria E. Stephens, of Mount Vernon, Iowa. They have two children: Clyde E. and Maud S. Mr. Slocumb is a member of Robert Burns Lodge, No. 113, A.F.A.M.

In all professions and occupations there are those who are "fussy," nervous and bombastic, making great noise over small achievements, while others are quiet, unobtrusive, meritorious workers in whatever sphere they occupy in the world's great drama. Such an one is the subject of this sketch, DR. JOHN S. ALLEN. He is not old enough to be a pioneer of the country or in his profession, but is performing well the part which he has chosen in life's duties. Dr. Allen is comparatively a young man, having been born in Galesburg, Illinois, November 23, 1851. He is the seventh son of Sheldon W. and Fidelia (Leach) Allen. The doctor attended the common schools of the city of Galesburg, and also Knox College and Lombard University. He also took a course in the Western Business College of the same city. At the age of twenty-two years he commenced the study of medicine in the office of Dr. J. B. Vivion, of Galesburg, and after a due course of study he attended three terms at Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, and graduated in 1877. He settled in Kewanee, where he remained but a short time, and then removed to Keithsburg, where he has since remained, doing a fine business in his profession. Dr. Allen was married June 20, 1877, to Miss Florence, daughter of H. M. and Jane Condie, of Chicago. They have two children: Harry S. and John L. Dr. Allen is a member of the Order of Odd-Fellows, and is quite an active worker in the interests of the order. Politically he is a republican, but pays more attention to medicine than to politics, and it has been the good fortune of few young professional men to more quickly win the confidence of the majority of the people than Dr. Allen has.

LANSING K. JENNE, veterinary surgeon, is a son of John and Sarah (Freeman) Jenne. He was born in Genesee county, New York, June 15, 1820. November 4, 1840, he was married to Miss Submit Ashley, a native of Ontario county, New York. In about 1850 he removed to Michigan, and settled near Grand Rapids, where he bought land and made a farm by chopping it out of the green woods. This farm he sold, and in 1872 removed to Muscatine, Iowa, where he remained till 1880, when he came to Keithsburg. Early in life he paid some attention to the study of veterinary surgery, and by careful study and good luck has become master of his profession. He is the father of six children, living: Newton E., Edward S., Frank F., John W., Sarah S., and Lua M.

## MILLERSBURG TOWNSHIP.

As we begin the task of writing the first history of this township, knowing that almost a half century has passed since the first settlement was made within its boundaries by civilized men, without so much as a diary of incidents and dates being kept of what has transpired, we can but feel that the task is a difficult one. The resources for data concerning the early settlement has been rapidly decreasing during the later years, till at present only a very small number of the pioneers remain to tell the story. Were the memory so absolutely perfect that nothing once known could slip away, we could yet expect to pen for the present all things of interest that have transpired in Millersburg township during the past fifty years.

But notwithstanding all the imperfections of memory, enough of the history of Millersburg township remains to impress upon the minds of the rising generation the noble and resolute character of the pioneers who first planted civilization and civilized institutions within its boundaries. Those old pioneers, 'tis true, did not lead great armies like Genghis Khan, or a Napoleon, or Cæsar, devastating whole empires and kingdoms, but they did a noble work—a work that should crown their memories with the honor of pushing out upon the frontier and laying the foundations of happy and pleasant homes for those who should come after them, in a wilderness beset with the privations and toils inherent to early settlement of almost every country. Let us seat ourselves by the grassy mound that marks the resting place of their aged dust and study their characters and the part they played in the world's drama, and then ask ourselves these questions: Are they not deserving of all the honors we can heap upon them? Can the gay, festive boy afford to pass lightly by the character of his now sleeping ancestor, to study the character and lives of those who have become eminent in the world's history because of the circumstances which made them? Is there not a lesson for the blithe and lively girl of to-day in the patience of that old grandmother now sweetly sleeping beneath the sod, after so many years of earnest toil, that her granddaughter might live the life of a queen instead of the life of a slave in a desert?

There is a lesson for all in the character of these sturdy pioneers whose toiling hands only rested when the angel said: "Rest; your work is done." That lesson can only be learned from the institutions they planted and nurtured till they were called away.

Let us look over and locate the territory of the section whose



history we are to write. It consists of thirty-six square miles, bounded on the north by Duncan township, on the east by Mercer, on the south by Abington, and on the west by New Boston.

Let us imagine ourselves near the center of this tract of country, looking around us from some high eminence, a half century ago. Almost at our feet is the Edwards river, quietly moving along to join the father of waters, flowing almost directly west across the township. On either side it is almost invariably fringed with narrow, flat bottoms overgrown with forest trees, and hedged in by abrupt bluffs reaching to the height of sixty, and sometimes eighty, feet. Casting our eye to the northwest we can see the forest undulations, like the billows of an angry sea, where breaks of Camp creek and those of the Edwards river meet. This last-named stream flows southwest across sections 5 and 7. The Edwards makes a sharp curve on sections 8 and 9, approaching almost to within one mile of the north line of the township. Looking to the northeast of the township we see the undulations growing smaller and smaller, until they present almost a straight line on the horizon; this is partly timber and the rest prairie. Turning to the south, a beautiful landscape meets the eye. The tall, waving grass marks the gentle undulations of the land on the south and southeast; on the southwest the breaks of Pope creek extend north of the south line about one mile. What were at first low sags, extending back from the streams, receiving quietly the water exuding from the upland and bearing it on without a ripple, have now grown in many places into deep gulches, growing deeper with each freshet. At the time of the first white settlement the Indians of this part of the state had been conquered and most of them were gone. Could we have stood here fifty years ago, looking down into the Edwards river as it rolled gently along, we would have realized that the red men who once in awhile come to view the hunting-grounds of their fathers and visit the graves of their kindred are almost the only visitors to this locality. The deer, the wolf, the wild duck, the prairie chicken and the sand-hill crane sport upon the banks, watching the fish as they play in its placid waters, without fear of being molested even by the skulking red man whom they had been accustomed to see creeping down the ravine, through the tall grass, to surprise them in their haunts. These were balmy days for these inhabitants, of so many different species. The red man of the forest had taken up his march in the direction of the setting sun, to make room for the industrious settler who was soon to follow, taking nothing with him but his wigwam and weapons.

As the red man moved out to make room for the civilized settler,

so must these motley, but interesting and happy groups of birds and quadrupeds move out and give place to the domesticated of their kind.

Of the man of the forest but few traces of his haunts or works remain, save a few mounds on section 4. The section is well timbered with oak, hickory, walnut and other kinds of forest trees. Of so great antiquity are these mounds that the forest trees rising from their summits compare in size and age with those of the surrounding forest. These mounds are from three to six feet high. From some of them have been taken tomahawks of stone, arrow heads, human bones, which nature's forces had not yet reduced to common clay, and other trinkets. To us here is the history of a race unwritten so far as we can tell, save by the implements they buried with their dead. Of the lower orders of the early inhabitants few remain, and they poke through hedge and wood to escape the hunter and his dog.

The whole scene is now changed. The northwest quarter, which was originally all timber, is now partly cut off, and herds of cattle and sheep dot its hills and slopes. Looking to the northeast quarter, beautiful farms of waving fields of wheat and growing corn, with here and there a forest grove, meet the eye. Turning to that part of the township south of the Edwards, the fields of tall and waving wild grass have disappeared, in lieu of which we now behold beautiful farms, with cozy dwellings, inhabited by a prosperous people. This section of the township for all agricultural purposes cannot be excelled in the county; nor can the part north of the Edwards be excelled for fine stock farms.

#### PIONEER SETTLERS AND SETTLEMENTS.

It will not be out of place to drop a few remarks as to the character of the pioneers, for the character of history depends upon that of the men who made it. The greater part of the pioneers and early settlers who located in Millersburg township were from Pennsylvania and Ohio, a few coming from Virginia, some from Ireland, some from New York and Kentucky, with now and then a settler from some other quarter of civilization. But, remarkable as it may seem, they belonged for the most part to the same class of society. They were people of small means, whose object in coming to the western wilds was to procure for themselves and their families homes which their means would not procure where they were reared. They were of that industrious and economical class who had not only been reared under the influence of christianity, but had been taught to obey its precepts from a high sense of moral honor and dignity. Like the Puritan fathers, they were scarcely housed in their cabins



before they began to erect school-houses and churches, the same building being used for both purposes. Owing to their proximity to their neighbors on the Mississippi, they endured less privations and hardships than did the colonists who came over in the Mayflower; but they were men and women who possessed no less courage and earnestness for the principles which had been taught them under the paternal roof. Had it been theirs to exercise that stubbornness to the edicts of kings and priests in defense of human rights, as it was that of the pilgrim fathers, they would have proved equally indomitable and immovable. It has been remarked that men die, are buried, and even their graves are lost; but their influence, like the stains of human gore, cannot be removed from the community where they resided. This, we must admit, is true of Millersburg township; its society is pushing along in the direction laid out by its first settlers.

The township is divided into two geographical divisions by the Edwards river. Between the early settlers of each there was but little communication, because of there being no bridges across this stream. Settlements were made in the township both north and south of the river about the same time in the fall of 1834. The first families to locate south of the river were Harrison Riggs, Ebenezer Creswell and Edward Willits. The first located on section 30, and erected the first cabin in the township; his wife, Mrs. Juliette Riggs, still resides upon the same farm where she and her husband first located, and where she is patiently waiting the summons that shall call her to a world with less privations and cares. The second, Ebenezer Creswell, located on section 21, where he built a saw-mill in 1834 or 1835. This was on Camp creek and was the first mill in the township. The Willits family located on the same section as did Creswell. Among others who came shortly after were: Thomas Riggs in 1836, on section 25; Rice Peckinbaugh, on section 21, in 1840; Charles Griffith, on section 16, in 1839, where he yet resides; Isaac Burson, on section 20, in 1837; W. Hubbard, on section 32, in 1836; Edward Brady, Sr., in 1842; John T. McGinnis, in 1846; Richard and John S. Kidoo came in 1845; William Kidoo and his father came in 1847; John and Edward Brady came in 1842; Peter Spangler, Thomas Jackson and others came about 1840, and located south of the Edwards. Thus was civilized society planted in Millersburg on the south of the river. North of the Edwards the first settler located was Benijah Lloyd, on section 5, in 1834. Two years later the town of Millersburg was laid out by the Miller brothers, who had previously settled in another township, about 1834. Among those who located in and around the new town were: H. W. Thornton, in 1836; James Thompson, in

1838 ; Esq. Routzong, in 1838 ; Erastus, William and Joseph Denison came prior to 1840 ; Judge Gilmore came about 1838, and afterward moved south of the river opposite where the Peniel church now stands. All of these located either in the village of Millersburg or near by. I. M. Gilmore located east of the village about 1840 ; L. B. Howe, Thomas Brighton, Elbridge Howe, W. A. Bridgford and his son, O. A. Bridgford, came about 1840. These and a few others were the pioneers who located in the north part of the township during the period of its early settlement. William Cline was an early settler and great hunter ; his brother, Christian Cline, located in Millersburg.

From 1840 to 1855 the township settled rapidly, and but little land was left unoccupied. For the names and history of many of those families, reference may be had to the biographical department of this township. Millersburg township was one of the first to be settled away from the Mississippi river. It now seems a short journey to the river, but it must be remembered that half a century ago there were no laid out roads across the country and the streams were without bridges. Then the only products that would bring money or could be exchanged for the necessities of life, were wheat and pork, and these must be transported to the river towns ; nor was this all : there were but few wagons in the country. Sleds were used in summer as well as in winter. Previous to the settlements in Millersburg, only three or four years, the Indians had control of all the country away from the river to Rock Island. Till about 1840 the settlers saw hard times. Their products, wheat and pork, were exchanged at low figures for goods at enormous prices. Many were dependent on credit. But economy and industry, such as the settlers of Millersburg possessed, in such a country of rich land, was soon to overcome the various impediments which then beset her people. The country was wild and the health of the people was not good. Chills and fevers were sure visitors, and not unfrequently permanent inmates of the pioneer homes. With the improvement of health and circumstances, many who had found it difficult to get the benefit of the merchant's credit, established for themselves a better credit than those whose credit they had sought ever had. At the present time some of the most wealthy citizens of the township are those who had hard work to keep the wolf from their door.

The manners and customs of the early settlers and pioneers were those of a plain but honest people. They were social among themselves and hospitable to strangers. Their houses were small and their food coarse, but welcome to all. Each settler's neighborhood might be



bounded by a circle whose diameter was twenty miles. Were a family in distress willing hands were ready to administer to its wants.

The entertainments, such as the people now enjoy, were few and far between, and they amused themselves in hunting the wolf, which then could be heard upon every elevation and hollow. The last great hunt of this kind came off in 1840. A large tract of country was surrounded. The point for meeting was southeast of Millersburg, north of the Edwards. Two hundred deer were corralled in the ring, but the wolves made good their escape. The deer, which at this time were plenty, disappeared almost entirely between 1844 and 1850. Early settlers were annoyed greatly by the wolves. When they killed fresh meat the wolves would come around the house, set up a dismal, heart-rending howl, and even skip about over the roof, but they were so sly that one was seldom killed.

Among the early settlers came a few who delighted to spend their time in hunting and fishing, and others who looked upon horse-racing and other kindred amusements as the highest calling of humanity. These, like the red man, could not endure the telling blows and prosperity of the more civilized habits and customs which predominated, and have long since disappeared from among the citizens of Millersburg township.

Mrs. Juliette Riggs, the pioneer settler, now living on section 30, had great anxiety to see an Indian baby. She called at a hut near by and implored the inmates to bring the little red skin out that she might examine it, but the mother was not so desirous of exhibiting her offspring as her palefaced sisters seem to be, and coldly informed Mrs. Riggs if she desired to satisfy her curiosity she must come in, and in she went. William Drury, when he first came to the settlement south of the Edwards, says Mrs. Riggs was exceedingly hungry for meat, Mrs. Riggs being out of that article at the time. Drury went coon hunting and caught several coons, which he had cooked, and they were eaten by him with the remark, "They are superior to mutton in flavor and taste."

Almost with the early settlers of Mercer county there was formed a company of bandits, supposed to have their rendezvous in the northeast of Mercer and the south part of Rock Island counties, which greatly alarmed the settlers of Millersburg township, especially at such times as they had received any money. The story is told us of Joseph King, living near Millersburg at that time, having received \$700. He could not secrete it in his pockets, as it was in gold and silver, and there were no banks in the country. He was so scared that he would not even carry it home, but gave it to a friend, who took it home for

him. His uneasiness did not cease here. He cleaned up his fowling-piece and stood guard till he could invest his money, which having been done he remarked, "Money is a good thing to have, but a source of pleasure to be rid of when one feels unsafe."

The first death that occurred in the township was in 1835. While Benijah Lloyd was on his way to his claim on section 4, his son, nearly seven years old, fell out of the wagon and was run over by the wheels, killing him instantly. There were no neighbors to assist in the funeral except Ebenezer Creswell and his hired man. The remains were interred at the new home on section 4. We have been told by good authority that Benijah Lloyd was the first to settle in Millersburg township, and equally good authority informs us that Hiram Hardy, Albert P. Taylor (at one time sheriff of the county, at another county clerk) and Ebenezer Creswell were here before him.

Alfred Gray, a wagonmaker by trade, and John Jackson, a blacksmith, who had a shop near where Joy is now located, were, we have reason to believe, the first tradesmen of this kind in the township.

The early settlers used to go to Bald Bluff (now Henderson county) for medical aid. Benijah Lloyd thinks the first physician to locate in the township was Dr. Martin Willitts, at Millersburg. Another early physician was Dr. Daniel Pickley, an early sheriff of the county. The first preaching Mr. Lloyd remembers of in the township was at the house of Abraham Miller, by a preacher from (John) Farlow's Grove, named James, a predestinarian Baptist.

#### VILLAGES.

Millersburg township has two villages, Millersburg and Joy. The former is the oldest laid-out town in the county back from the river, and has a history connected with the county second to none in importance. It was laid out in 1836 by John Miller, after whom the town and township was named. Of the Miller family there were John, George, Abraham, Isaac, and Philip, who were brothers, and Abraham, Jr., son of George. Abraham, Jr., is now living in Oregon. The Millers came to Mercer county from Indiana (they were formerly from Tennessee), and located in Perryton at Sugar Grove in 1834. Abraham, Jr., was one of the first county clerks of Mercer county. There is not one of the family living in the county at this time. The family was remarkable for their love of pioneer life, and the remaining members, when the country here became settled, moved west.

When Millersburg was first laid out it seemed a fit location for almost anything else rather than a town. The country around could



scarcely be said to be even sparsely settled. Abraham Miller, Jr., is said to have built the first dwelling-house inside the corporation. James Thompson and William Drury soon after erected the first store-room and sold the first goods. In 1838 Erastus Denison erected the first hotel. The building is still standing. It is a two-story frame. The lower story is now used for a store-room. The upper is occupied by the I.O.O.F. lodge. William Pinckney established a pottery here in 1837 or 1838. The first doctor to locate in the town was Martin Willitts. Among the first attorneys to locate in the town was H. W. Thornton, who has retired from the law practice and now lives on his farm adjoining the village. The first blacksmith shop located here was erected by Thomas Biglow about 1836 or 1837. The first postoffice was established at Millersburg in 1837 or 1838, and mail was received twice a week. William Drury was the first commissioned postmaster. As early as 1839 Millersburg had grown to quite a village.

The county seat was located here as early as 1836. Courts were held in the hotel till the court-house was completed, which was in 1839. The building is a two-story frame, still standing, and is now occupied by Harrison Bethuram as a wagon and blacksmith shop. The building was when built not only a spacious edifice, but fine, for the time; now it is a dilapidated structure, presenting every appearance of the ravaging hand of time. It was used till 1847 as the office of justice. For several years it was the school-house and church of the town. It stood formerly on the south side of Main street, toward the west end of the town. When the county seat was moved from Millersburg in 1847, H. W. Thornton bought the court-house and moved it to its present location on the south side of the village. He converted it into a store-room. A jail was erected about the same time. It was a stone structure lined upon the inside with heavy timbers. The first prisoner who became its inmate, had borrowed a horse and failed to return as soon as was expected, hence a warrant was procured and A. P. Taylor, who was then sheriff, set out towards New Boston in search of his game. The sheriff met the man on his way back to Millersburg with the horse. He, true to his office oath, arrested the man, brought him to Millersburg and lodged him in the jail. But the inhabitants of the town were scarcely wrapped in slumber profound before the prisoner made his escape. All were confident he had no intention of stealing the animal, and no attempt was made for his re-arrest. The second and last person lodged in the building was held prisoner for debt. He enjoyed his meals at the hotel, and was heard to remark that he preferred the lodging and board of the county to that of his own home. He has since become quite well off and now resides in the county.

The jail was used most of the time by the sheriff for a granary and fodder-house. Sheriff Taylor remarked it ought to be put to some use. It was located on the north side of Main street, a little west of where the court-house stood.

The first wagon shop erected in the town of Millersburg was that of A. P. and Asa G. Shafer in 1856. The former still carries on the business in the same old shop. Then there was no shop of this kind nearer than New Boston. The second was built by Crippin and Powers in 1857, the next by McGlathlin and Jones in 1859, the fourth by James Gilmore in 1861, the fifth by J. H. Longshore about 1862. The last is running a shop doing all kinds of repairing in his line.

The first death in the town was by suicide. The person was a married lady. She deliberately took a handkerchief, put it around her neck and choked herself to death by taking hold of two of the corners with her hands and pulling till she closed the air passage to the lungs.

From the laying out of Millersburg till after the county seat was removed, it was the best business point, outside of Keithsburg and New Boston, in the county. The country trade came here from the east for a distance of fifteen miles. But as other towns sprang up in different parts of the country the trade was divided, and when the county seat was taken away the trade that came here because of the county seat went elsewhere. The unnatural attraction which had brought the business to this point was gone, and Millersburg was cut short in the zenith of her prosperity, and many of her business men went elsewhere. The improvements that have been made here since 1857 are few beyond a few cozy dwellings. But notwithstanding the antiquated appearance of the village, it has a good local trade. It has two stores of general merchandise, one kept by W. W. Eghert, the other by John Farran, two blacksmith shops, one grocery store kept by David T. Howe, one barber shop, one shoe shop, one harness shop, one hotel, kept by William Dunn. The creamery erected here in 1881, by Strattan, is the leading business of the village. It is run by a four horse-power engine, and uses the Elgin cream vats. Its full working capacity is 15,000 pounds of butter per day, and gives employment to twenty men and fifteen teams.

The first and only mill ever erected in the town was built by Steven Strattan about 1850, and run till 1875, when it was torn down and moved south of Millersburg, on the Edwards, and water power is used instead of steam. Since the establishing of the postoffice here, with William Drury as first postmaster, the following persons have had the office: James Thompson, Dr. Allen, H. W. Thornton, J. M.



Nevans, William H. Green and his wife (Mrs. Green held the office for fifteen years, and was postmistress during the war), J. D. Strattan and John Farran, who is present postmaster. Mail is received twice each day.

While Millersburg lost to a great degree her former vivacity in business, she retained her good morals, out of which has grown one of the finest temperance societies in the county, if not in the state, considering her population. Previous to 1868 a temperance society was organized which was of short duration. It seemed to be an aid to the dram-shop, as they located here almost simultaneously. The more moral and lovers of good society, becoming tired of the increasing vices, products of the dram-shop, met in deliberate assembly for the purpose of driving out from their midst the licensed traffic of intoxicating liquors. The result is, the voice of the people has, since 1868, ruled supreme, and not a saloon has been kept here since that time. The fire that drove the demon from the village has been kept burning brightly since its embers were first fanned into a flame, and out of this, in 1879, grew the Millersburg Christian Temperance Union, organized by T. J. Adams, who, prior to effecting the organization, delivered a series of lectures on the subject of temperance. The society was organized with 160 members, and now numbers 400. It uses the blue ribbon badge and the Murphy pledge, and is auxiliary to the state and National Temperance Union. Unlike most societies of its kind, it has no assessments, the funds necessary to defray its expenses being supplied by public collection. Its meetings are held alternately at the Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal churches on Sunday evening of each week. It is now a prosperous society. Its meetings are conducted in the form of entertainments, and the society performs the double office of cultivating the morals of the rising generation and at the same time gives its members an opportunity to cultivate, expand and air their literary powers. Its first officers were: President, J. W. Madox, who still occupies the chair, with Thomas Herman, Mrs. J. M. Gilmore and Mrs. Eddy as vice-presidents; Recording Secretary, J. M. Grady; Corresponding Secretary, J. D. Strattan; Board of Managers, Nelson Taylor, Miss A. Shafer, William Dunn, Rev. G. M. Morey and William Long; Treasurer, Geneva Farran. Present officers are: president, same as the first, with James Rejin, Alexander Greene, and James W. Terry, vice-presidents; Recording Secretary, James Grady; Corresponding Secretary, Jane Gilmore; Treasurer, Miss Mattie Bay; Board of Managers, Mrs. Maggie Eghert, Ephraim Gilmore and Annie Williams. The charter was given the society by John P. St. John, president, and J. E. Letton, secretary, of the national society.

There is yet another society now in operation at Millersburg, for the moral cultivation of its children. This is the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. It was organized in 1880, at the Methodist church. The first members of the society deserve to be remembered by those who come after, as they embrace the ladies of most of the leading families in and about Millersburg. They are as follows: Mrs. Eddy, Mrs. M. Bay, Miss S. E. Thornton, Miss A. Shafer, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. B. C. Greene, Mrs. M. Boyd, Mrs. M. E. Boyd, Mrs. T. Cornell, Mrs. Boyles, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. L. Thornton, Mrs. L. Landreth, Mrs. M. A. Lee, Mrs. M. E. Sivens, Mrs. Norbury, Mrs. T. Gilmore, Mrs. J. M. Gilmore, Mrs. Dr. Chowning, Mrs. Ellen Everett, Mrs. J. Morey, Miss J. Farran. The funds accumulating from initiation fees and term dues are used to procure reading matter that will interest the children, and direct them in a right direction as to other literature. The present number of members is eighteen. The first officers of the society were: President, Mrs. E. Eddy; Vice-presidents, Mrs. E. Bay, Mrs. Burges and Mrs. E. Dunn; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. R. Green; Recording Secretary, Miss S. E. Thornton; Treasurer, Miss A. Shafer. The present officers are: Mrs. M. Merriman, president, with Mrs. Burges and M. Eghert, vice-presidents; corresponding and recording secretaries same as the first.

The Children's Temperance Society was organized in 1882, with twenty-two members. Its officers are: President, Mrs. Dr. Chowning; Vice-Presidents, Miss A. Shafer and Mrs. W. Eghert. This society is kept in the interest of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Credit must be given the ladies of Millersburg and the surrounding country for the active and energetic part they have ever taken to build up a good class of society around them, and banish from their midst those evils and temptations which tend to destroy the harmonious progression of well regulated society.

#### CHURCH HISTORY.

This part of the history of Millersburg is no less interesting than her temperance history. As we have before stated, in the cabin of the first settler in the town in 1836 begins this department of Millersburg's history. Until the court-house was completed in 1839 the several denominations represented here held their meetings at the houses of their members and in the groves, when, in 1844, the first school-house was built, and meetings were held in it and at the court-house till churches were erected. The first organization of the Presbyterian faith in Mercer county was at what is now known as Pope's Creek, in 1837, with John Montgomery as pastor. The advocates of Presby-



terianism living at Millersburg and the surrounding country attended church at that place and made up a part of the society. In 1839 they began to have regular services at Millersburg, which were held in the court-house till 1844, but had no organization of their own till about the close of 1843 or the beginning of 1844. John Montgomery was their first regular preacher in the court-house. In 1844, the time of the building of the first school-house in Millersburg, the house was made larger than was needed for school that it might serve for both school-house and church. At this time the following-named persons were dismissed from the Pope Creek church to organize a society at Millersburg: Messrs. E. Gilmore, J. M. Gilmore, Henry Lee, Edward and John Brady, J. T. McGinnis, J. G. Gilmore, A. A. Sherer, Samuel Guffy, John Kiddoo, Graham Lee, David Morrow and H. W. Thornton. The ladies were: Betsy King, Margaret S. Gilmore, Ann J. Taylor, Martha Lee, Mary Marsh, Mary E. Murphy, Sarah E. Lloyd, Sarah Clark, Elizabeth A. Edgar, Elizabeth Davis, Mary M. Steele, Mary Sherer, Eliza Brady, Catherine Gilmore, Tabitha W. Bay, Mary A. McGinnis, Mary Guffy, Eliza Kiddoo, Elizabeth Morrow, E. F. Thornton, Rachel T. Willitts and Hannah Reed, making in all forty-four members to organize and establish the first church in Millersburg. The society held services in the above-mentioned school-house till 1854, when was erected the present church edifice, a frame building, at a cost of \$1,600. Its size is 40×50, with a seating capacity for 300 persons. It has several times been refitted, and even now, as to outward appearances, is comparatively a new building. The ministers who have served this congregation since it began to have preaching are: Rev. John Montgomery, from 1839 to 1843; Thomas Vail, till 1848 or 1849; L. V. Crittenden, 1854; A. Loomis, till 1858; J. N. Jamison, till 1861; William Dool, from 1865 to 1869; J. McBride, till 1872; Joel Kennedy, three years, and till 1879. The present pastor is W. B. Phelps. The first officers of the church were: Elders, Ephraim Gilmore, J. W. Nevius. Shortly after the organization J. T. McGinnis, J. M. Gilmore and Henry Lee were added to the eldership.

The largest membership the society ever numbered at any one time was 140 members. It now numbers little more than one-fourth that number. This reduction has been owing to circumstances. The greatest drain upon the society has been the number that have been dismissed to organize other societies. At one time there were dismissed forty-five members to organize a society south of the Edwards, at what is now Peniel church; at another, eighteen were dismissed to organize a society at Hamlet in Perryton township; and several were dismissed to unite with the Perryton society in Perryton township. This church

society has always had Sunday-school at its church-house, but not connected with the church. The Sunday-school which it has always supported was organized at Millersburg, in the court-house in 1842, by the American Sunday-school Union. Among the members of this society since its organization are the names of many prominent families, both of the past and present.

The next church organization in age and extent is the Methodist Episcopal church. The people of this faith who located here at an early day, like the Presbyterians, held their meetings at private houses and in groves till the court-house was erected, when they used that till the school-house was built in 1844, when they held services there till they erected their first church building.

The early pioneers of the Methodist Episcopal church worshiped at Camden Mills (now Milan, Rock Island county), and for several years only had preaching at Millersburg now and then. It remained a part of the Camden Mills circuit till 1865, when it became the Millersburg circuit, then including Aledo, which was afterward detached from the circuit. They began to have regular preaching about 1850, but no organization distinct from the Camden Mills church till 1857, when the organization was effected and included in the Peoria conference. R. N. More was the elder who presided here at the organization. J. W. Long was secretary of the meeting. D. M. Falkinbury was first pastor in charge. James Sheriff, Jacob Wharton and John Ashbaugh were the first class-leaders. The first stewards were: J. W. Lane, Ambrose Eddy, Jacob Colier, Peter Blue, E. C. Partlet, William T. Shafer, and Joseph Richmond. Samuel Wharton was appointed Sunday-school superintendent, and Samuel Artz assistant superintendent. The Methodist Episcopal society erected their first and present church building, 40 × 60, seating room 40 × 50 feet, in 1857, at a cost of \$4,000. Previous to erecting this present church a building was begun on the same foundation, and when partly completed, was blown down by a storm. This was a sad thing for the church; it needed a place for worship, and the generosity of many had received considerable tension, and it seemed like raising mountains of granite from their foundations to arouse the people again to a necessity of beginning a second building, and to renew their subscriptions for that purpose. Citizens with money to loan were less common than now. But in the face of all this opposition the Methodist Episcopal people went to work with a will which meant to carry the point, and did so. The building is well furnished, and the best in the town. The church has enjoyed a good degree of prosperity since its organization. Like the Presbyterian church, it has come up from the pioneer days, and



among its members since the church was established here, and before, are many of the prominent families, not only of Millersburg township, but of the county.

The ministers who have labored here since 1857, are: F. A. Falkinbury, from 1857 to 1858, during which time Joseph Richmond was exhorter in the church; L. D. Crouch, till 1860; Z. E. Kaufman, till 1861; J. D. Taylor, till 1863; L. S. Ashbaugh, till 1864; J. D. Taylor again, till 1865; James Cowden, till 1866; M. P. Armstrong, till 1868, who came here from Indiana, and as the conference year of the two conferences did not end at the same time, his place was filled, till his time expired in Indiana, by J. H. Payton; A. Morey, till 1870; A. Beeler, till 1871; Thomas Head, till 1874; J. J. Walter, till 1875; G. M. Morey, till 1878. Present pastor in charge is G. W. Frizell. The present officers are: Ambrose Eddy, J. D. Strattan, J. H. Purdum and Dr. J. P. Chowning, church stewards; Jacob Wharton, William Dunn, Ambrose Eddy, J. D. Strattan and S. H. Riddell, trustees; Charles York, J. H. Purdum and William Robinson, parsonage trustees.

The Methodist Episcopal church has had connected with its organization, since 1857, a live and profitable Sunday-school. Previous to 1857 they labored in the capacity of a Sunday-school in the interest and under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union. The school is now kept in operation throughout the year, and is in a prosperous condition.

#### LATTER-DAY SAINTS' CHURCH.

The third and last of the churches now represented in Millersburg is the Latter-Day Saints' church, not unfrequently called Mormons, but the people of this faith here detest the very idea of polygamy. This doctrine of the church was first preached in the county about 1840, by Elder G. M. Hinkle. The first society in the county was organized in 1861 in Duncan township. The members of this faith then at Millersburg worshiped with the congregation in Duncan township till 1872, when they were organized into a distinct society, which met at private residences for worship for a short time after its organization, and other buildings suitable, till 1876, when they built their present church-house at a cost of \$600. The first members were as follows: W. S. Morrison, Joseph Harris, James Vernon, Eliza Vernon, Viola Vernon, J. M. Terry, Mary Terry, Elizabeth, Emma, Stephen, Theresa, James and Nancy Miller, Jasper, Mary, Mary E., Clara, Juliet, Adelaide and Edward Duncan, Hannah Terry, Margaret Brown, William Cardman, Sarah Cardman, Elizabeth Webb. The present members number forty-six.

A partial list of the ministers, as furnished us, is as follows: J. M. Terry, J. W. Terry, E. Bryant, J. L. Terry and J. B. Harris, present pastor in charge. The first officers were J. B. Harris and J. M. Terry. The present officers are J. L. Terry, E. Bryant and J. W. Terry. The first death that occurred in the society was that of W. S. Morrison in 1873. The society is in a prosperous condition. It receives much uncalled-for censure because of the infamous doctrine preached by the Utah church.

While these three church societies compose those who have erected church buildings in Millersburg, they do not embrace all the creeds represented by her people. The earliest preaching at Millersburg was of the predestinarian Baptist faith, which at that time was rapidly losing its favor with the people from whence came the greater part of the early settlers of Millersburg. In addition to these Baptists were the Missionary Baptist, who have had at no time in the history of the settlement of the township a church building and a regular organized society, but have had, at irregular intervals, preaching almost from the beginning of the settlement. The people a part of the time held their meetings in the Presbyterian church building, and the remainder in the school-house and at other places. In 1870 G. M. Zook preached here regularly for one year; he was followed by A. F. Sharpner. Among others who have from time to time labored here in the ministerial capacity are M. D. Murdock and J. W. Washdale. Owing to the fact that no record of the early settlers who held to the Missionary Baptist faith has been kept of those who resided at and around Millersburg, we are not able to give a list of their names, and give only the names of this faith at this time residing here: A. P. Sharpner and family, Thomas Landreth and family, James Burges and wife, Herschel Felton and wife, and James Cash. These hold their membership at Antioch, in Duncan township, or at Aledo. Such is the history of the religious sects of the town of Millersburg from its first settlement.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD-FELLOWS.

This society ranks high in this vicinity in morals, business ability and intelligence. The history of its organization and progress, as follows, has been prepared by a committee appointed for the purpose.

Iris Lodge, No. 267, I.O.O.F., was organized December 13, 1858, by William L. Green, James McJenkins, J. W. Close, John S. Moore and O. C. Allen, over the old store of O. A. Bridgford. J. W. Close is the only living charter member, as known by the



lodge at the present time. The first officers of the lodge were as follows: N.G., W. L. Green; V.G., J. W. Close; Sec., James McJenkins; Treas., J. S. Moore. The first members of Iris Lodge had a pretty hard struggle to keep life in the organization: for, when the lodge was yet young, a number of the members were called away to the army, which left only about a quorum, and it was a hard matter to get all out at once. But by hard work they pulled through. The brethren never forgot those who were called away to help in the suppression of rebellion, and showed their interest in the absent ones by paying all back dues, and in gaining help. The first death in the lodge was that of Lewis Trimble, and the whole number of deaths since the lodge was organized is five. The progress of the lodge, since the close of the war, has been very rapid, increasing from the five charter members to an average of forty members in good standing, and from a state of bankruptcy to a surplus of \$1,500. The society now owns their own hall, which is very neat and attractive, and claims as a membership the best men that society affords. The present officers of the lodge are as follows: N.G., C. C. Brown; V.G., W. W. Wakeland; Sec., J. U. Roberts; Treas., J. N. Close. The number of members at present is forty-five. The society has occupied one building almost all the time, and it cost \$500. The lodge is now in a prosperous condition, and is one of the ablest lodges in the county.

Millersburg public schools is one of the institutions in which her people take great pride, and it is well that they should feel proud of an institution that can prepare her sons and daughters to become men and women among men and women. About the first, if not the very first, school taught in Millersburg, was kept in H. W. Thornton's law office by a man named Bell, in 1838. After this, school was held in the court-house till 1844, when the first house for school purposes was erected. Harry Scenter, David Felton, Hiram Hardie, Mrs. H. W. Thornton, David Lloyd, Charles Winchip and Joseph McChesney were pioneer teachers of Millersburg, some of whom taught both in the rural districts and in town. The first school building was used for school purposes till 1862, when the present spacious brick school-house was erected, with four departments. The present principal is Prof. Daniel Farmer, of Normal, Illinois. A word complimenting the systematic course of instruction is not out of place. Students are fitted here for teachers without further drill.

The other village in the township is Joy, located on the Keithsburg division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. It was laid out in 1869 by L. W. Thompson and William Ungles, on section 19. The first business house in the place was a store of general mer-

chandise, kept by C. S. Richey, and the first drug store by John Moss. The first blacksmith to locate here was Joseph Hughes. The first religious meetings in the town were held by the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Later Day Saints, in the school-house. The population of the town is about 150. It has two stores: one kept by J. H. Crane; the other by J. T. Galloway; both have a good trade. One wagon shop is run by Joseph Hughes, and one blacksmith shop by G. W. Cook. The hotel is kept by J. W. Wood. The first hotel ever kept in the village was by O. F. Green.

The village is quite a shipping point. The railroad established a station here the same year the village was laid out. For some time the business of the station was almost nothing; the people had become so accustomed to take their produce to the river that it seemed hard to get out of the old ruts. The first station agent was H. N. McNeil. The present agent is Hiram Standish; he came here in 1870, and took hold of the business for both the company and the farmers; his object was to bring to this point the shipping both of grain and live stock that properly belonged here. In 1881 there were loaded at this place 196 cars of stock and 74 of grain; the number of cattle shipped was 1,338; of hogs, 7,678. To bring the business of the surrounding country here the agent received the produce from the producer and shipped it. At that time there were no buyers here. J. H. Crane is the present grain merchant.

The post-office now at Joy was first established in 1847, and named High Point. George Scott was the first postmaster, and kept the office at his home, where Edward Griffith now resides. The next appointed postmaster was Samuel Eayle, who kept the office one year, when it was given again to George Scott. In 1865 Peter Spangler was appointed postmaster and held the office till 1870, when it was moved to Joy, and the name changed from High Point to that of Joy, and the office given to O. F. Green. In 1871 J. T. McGinnis was made postmaster. The present postmaster is J. H. Crane, appointed in 1878, but has kept the office since 1873.

Joy has one church, the Methodist Episcopal. It was organized in 1874 by Rev. Head. Previous to this time they had irregular preaching at the school-house at Joy and at the brick church two miles southeast of the village. The society was organized with the following named members: J. W. Wood and wife, W. P. Zentmire and wife, William Kiddoo and wife, Richard Edgar and wife, Eliza Kiddoo, K. H. Day and wife, Frank More and wife, and Augusta Mays. The society now numbers forty members. In 1877 it built its first and present church edifice, a frame, at an outlay of \$1,800. The trustees



at present are : William Kiddoo, P. P. Zentmire and J. M. Shingledecker. The stewards are : J. M. Shingledecker and Mrs. Mays, The class-leader is W. P. Zentmire. The ministers who have labored here are : J. J. Walters, instrumental in bringing about the building of the church ; M. Morey, and W. B. Frizell, present pastor in charge. The society has lost by removals several of its valuable members.

A Sunday-school was organized shortly after the church organization was effected, which has since been in operation, and now numbers forty scholars. W. P. Zentmire is the present superintendent. Both the church and Sunday-school are in a prosperous condition.

In addition to those church societies in the town of Millersburg and the village of Joy, there are the Seventh Day Adventists church at the Marsh school-house in the southeast part of the township ; the Peniel church, four miles south of Millersburg, and the free Presbyterian church, familiarly known as the old brick church a half mile south of the Peniel church.

The Seventh Day Adventists are of recent date in Millersburg township, being as late as 1871 ; though there was a society of this belief much earlier in Aledo, with Elder Andrews as pastor, who came to the Marsh school-house previous to 1871, and preached for the benefit of the members of the church living in that community, at irregular intervals. The society was organized with about thirty communicants, and at this time numbers twenty members. The society has been very much affected by the unsettled condition of the population. The first officers were : J. R. Witham, elder ; C. Dreyden, deacon ; J. C. Middaugh, clerk. The present officers are : elder, same as the first ; clerk, Mary Miller. The society is flourishing, and proposes to erect a church-house for worship at the earliest possible period.

The Presbyterian congregation, known as the Peniel class, was organized into a distinct society in 1871. From the early settlement of the township there were several of this faith in this community, but not sufficient for sometime to support an independent society ; hence they held their membership at Millersburg. For several years they had preaching at the Pleasant Hill school-house, two miles east of Joy, and occasionally held meetings in the brick church one mile south. In 1871 the organization was effected by forty-five members, who were dismissed from the Millersburg society for that purpose. They met at the brick church and proceeded to form themselves into a society, and forthwith adopted measures for the erection of a church edifice, which was completed in 1872, at an outlay of \$4,500. This is

by far the finest church in the township. It is a frame structure 40×60, with a seating capacity for 300 persons. J. Downing donated the ground for the church and cemetery. In addition to this a parsonage was built at an outlay of \$1,600, Edwin Gilmore donating the ground on which it stands, one-fourth mile north of the church. This society and the one at Millersburg employ the same pastor; hence it is not necessary to repeat the names of the ministers who have labored here since the organization was effected; nor before, as they will be found in the list of ministers in connection with the society at Millersburg. The first elders of the society were: J. Downing, William Miller, J. T. McGinnis and John Love. A few years after there were two more added to this number: Richard Kiddoo (deceased) and Henry Dool. The present eldership is the same. The largest membership the society has had at any one time was 125 members, which has been reduced to 84 by removals. The society dedicated its building out of debt. Many of the friends of the church came on dedication day with their pocketbooks, and went away surprised to think that no collection was taken. The Presbyterian element is largely predominant in the section surrounding this church. The society has kept, in connection with the church work, an interesting Sabbath-school. Until quite recently it was discontinued during the winter months, but now continues throughout the year. The present superintendent is William Jewel. The average attendance is 100.

The brick church one and a half miles north of the south line of the township, and directly south of Millersburg, was the first church building erected in the township. It was built in 1847. It is in size 40×60, and is still standing. It was built not so much by subscription as by contributions in work. The society was that of the Free Presbyterian faith. The leading members, and those who were instrumental in building the church, were the Kiddoo brothers, James, Richard, William and John, and others of the neighbors whose names we failed to get, as the records are either lost or have been carried away. The brick were burned by Richard Kiddoo. The men who did the work were kept by the people who were interested in its erection. Rev. James Pogue was the first minister in charge. The first elder was James Kiddoo, who moved west a few years since. This society was an advocate of freedom, not at that time inherent with the other branches of Presbyterianism. The organization was kept up till sometime during the war, when the principles of the denomination, whose mission it was to demonstrate, became impressed upon the community; and the society having become reduced in its membership by frequent removals of its members, it united with the



Methodist Episcopal church society now located at Joy, as the principles of freedom advocated by the two societies were one and the same. The society was reincorporated under the name of the Methodist Episcopal church, which held its meeting here regularly till the present church building was erected in Joy.

Connected with the church is the first established cemetery in the township, south of the Edwards. Here reposes the dust of several of the early settlers of the surrounding country.

The first Sunday-school in this part of the township was organized at this church, about the time of its dedication, under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union, which was kept up till the Methodist Episcopal society ceased to hold meetings here. The only use now made of the church building, is for funeral services at the cemetery. The erection of this church, at the time it was effected, if we consider the financial circumstances of the community, and the durability of the building itself, clearly illustrates the character of the people of the surrounding community.

Among the societies of the township, held at Millersburg, which clearly illustrates the progress of agriculture and stock raising is the county fair. It was the first association of the kind in the county. The fair grounds were located southwest of Millersburg, adjoining the town, and originally consisted of three acres, and enlarged to nine, at the time of its removal to Aledo. The expenses were kept within the annual income. The labor necessary to make the needed improvements was donated by the members of the association. Any one could become a member of the society by paying the fee of one dollar at each annual meeting. The sole interest of the society was manifested in behalf of the products of the county, and was conducted on strictly moral principles. Very little racing was permitted, and no gambling within the enclosure. Those who attended its annual show of stock, agricultural products and woman's wares, say that a marked progress in each department was perceptible, and it is not unfrequently the remark is made of the good social times enjoyed at the Millersburg fair. The ladies of the county are equally entitled to their share of the praise for the success of the institution while at Millersburg. The officers of the association gave free of charge their services, without even charging up their expenses while conducting the business of the association. When the place of its annual meeting was moved to Aledo, the society was out of debt and had a surplus of twelve or fifteen hundred dollars in the bank. We now leave the history of the society to be continued in the history of Mercer township.

## TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

In 1854 the people of Millersburg township met at the school-house near Edward Brady's corner, with Ephraim Gilmore, chairman, appointed by L. B. Howe, and L. B. Howe, secretary. These temporary officers became the permanent officers for the year. The township was divided into three road districts: No. 1, north of the Edwards; No. 2, embraced the east half of the township, south of the Edwards; No. 3, the west half of township, south of the Edwards.

The following list of township officers, taken from the records, will prove of great interest as being a list of gentlemen, who at various times, were considered worthy of the votes of their constituents and well fitted for the offices to which they elected them:

Date of Election.	SUPERVISORS.	CLERKS.	ASSESSORS.	COLLECTORS.	COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHWAYS.
1854	David Lloyd.....	J. E. Bay.....	Benijah Lloyd, Jr.	J. R. Lemon.....	.....
1855	M. L. Marsh.....	J. O. Allen.....	R. W. Bay.....	W. A. Bridgford..	.....
1856	James Haverfield.	J. O. Allen.....	.....	W. A. Bridgford..	.....
1857	James Haverfield.	S. J. Strattan....	J. T. McGinnis....	W. L. Crane.....	.....
1858	J. T. McGinnis....	Wm. A. Crane ..	O. A. Bridgford ..	J. R. Lemon.....	.....
1859	J. T. McGinnis....	Wm. Greene ....	W. A. Bridgford...	Wm. L. Greene..	.....
1860	J. T. McGinnis....	J. M. Nevius ....	James Kiddoo, Jr.	Wm. L. Greene..	.....
1861	Ephraim Gilmore.	Wm. L. Greene..	James Haverfield.	Wm. L. Greene..	.....
1862	A. P. Taylor.....	J. E. Bay.....	Wm. M. Brown....	W. A. Bridgford..	.....
1863	A. P. Taylor.....	J. E. Bay.....	Wm. M. Brown....	W. A. Bridgford..	.....
1864	J. T. McGinnis....	J. E. Bay.....	Wm. M. Brown....	W. A. Bridgford..	.....
1865	J. T. McGinnis....	J. E. Bay.....	L. B. Howe.....	J. E. Bay.....	.....
1866	J. T. McGinnis....	J. E. Bay.....	Johnson E. Beaty.	M. L. Detuler ..	.....
1867	J. T. McGinnis....	J. E. Bay.....	J. E. Beaty.....	J. H. Grady .....	.....
1868	Thos. Merriman..	J. E. Bay.....	R. H. Day.....	J. H. Grady .....	W. O. Dungau.
1869	J. T. McGinnis....	J. E. Bay.....	R. H. Day.....	John Brady.....	{ Ed. Brady, J. W. Close.
1870	J. T. McGinnis....	J. E. Bay.....	O. A. Bridgford...	A. W. McClain..	W. A. Marsh.
1871	R. H. Day.....	J. E. Bay.....	E. L. Emerson....	W. A. Bridgford..	J. W. Close.
1872	R. H. Day.....	J. E. Bay.....	E. L. Emerson....	W. A. Bridgford..	Ed. Brady.
1873	R. H. Day.....	J. E. Bay.....	Ed. Griffith.....	John Love .....	Richard Kiddoo.
1874	J. T. McGinnis....	John Brady.....	Ed. Griffith.....	L. B. Childs.....	J. W. Close.
1875	J. E. Bay.....	John Brady.....	J. G. McCarnahan.	John Brady.....	Edward Brady.
1876	J. E. Bay.....	John Brady.....	J. A. Gilmore.....	Jahn Brady.....	R. Kiddoo.
1877	J. T. McGinnis....	John Brady.....	J. E. Bay.....	J. R. Wartwick..	J. W. Close.
1878	J. T. McGinnis....	John Brady.....	J. E. Bay.....	J. R. Wartwick..	Ed. Brady.
1879	J. W. Close.....	John Brady.....	J. E. Bay.....	John Harvey....	R. Kiddoo.
1880	J. W. Close.....	John Brady.....	J. E. Bay.....	W. R. Lemon....	Taylor Gilmore.
1881	J. W. Close.....	John Brady.....	J. E. Bay.....	W. R. Lemon....	Ed. Brady.
1882	S. H. Riddell .....	J. G. Haverfield.	J. E. Bay.....	W. C. Irwin .....	S. A. Steele.

Previous to 1868 there were elected each year three commissioners of highways, whose names are as follows: 1854, J. Falls, S. Carnahan and Charles Griffith; 1855, J. Falls, C. Criffith and O. A. Bridgford; 1856, C. Griffith, J. P. Boyd and H. L. Marsh; 1857, C. Griffith, J. P. Boyd and James Kiddoo; 1858, C. Griffith, A. Eddy and J. P. Marsh; 1859, A. Eddy, Charles Griffith and William Brown; 1860, William Brown, Ed. Brady and A. Eddy; 1861 and 1862, same as in 1860; 1863, Ed. Brady, A. Eddy and D. Thatcher; 1864 and 1865, same as 1863; 1867, J. M. and R. H. Gilmore.



In 1835 the vote as to whether or not the township organization should be adopted, the result was 21 votes for and 19 against the organization.

The following is a list of the justices of the township since 1835 : Ebenezer Creswell, appointed May 3, 1835 ; Abraham Miller, October 5, 1835 ; Isaac Beson, April 30, 1838, refused to accept ; Christian Routzong, 1838 ; Frank Miller, probate justice, 1838 ; Abraham Thorp, 1839 ; E. Gilmore, 1839 ; John Carnahan, 1839 ; Daniel Pinkley, 1840 ; Joseph W. Lloyd, 1841 ; William J. Phelps, 1842 ; Isaac McDaniel, 1848 ; Daniel Pinkley, 1843 ; Hiram Hardy, 1843 ; Charles Sullivan, 1845 ; J. W. Wood, 1845 ; W. A. Bridgford, 1847 ; Charles Sullivan, 1847 ; J. W. Wood, 1847 ; W. A. Bridgford, 1847 ; Lucian B. Howe, 1849 ; W. A. Bridgford, 1849 ; Ephraim Gilmore, Jr., 1849 ; W. A. Bridgford, 1851 ; W. A. Bridgford, 1858 ; W. L. Green, 1858 ; W. A. Bridgford, 1862 ; S. W. Gailey, 1862 ; S. H. Riddell, 1866 ; B. F. Brock, 1866 ; Lucien B. How, 1869 ; W. A. Bridgford, 1870 ; O. F. Green, 1870 ; S. H. Riddell, 1870 ; Joseph Lyle, 1873 ; W. A. Bridgford, 1873 ; J. W. Wood, 1877 ; S. H. Riddell, 1877 ; W. A. Bridgford, 1881 ; I. W. Huckins, 1881.

#### SCHOOLS.

The free schools of Millersburg have kept pace with the progress of the township. In 1841 the money paid out for teaching was \$124.86, that being the available school fund. At that time there were only three districts, one north of the Edwards and two south.

The treasurer's report in 1863 shows seven districts ; 503 persons of school age in the township, with an attendance of 320. The amount paid out for teaching, \$1,134.42 ; highest wages paid per month was \$30 ; lowest, \$14. School fund, \$1,600. The report of 1881 shows the same number of districts ; 580 children of school age, with an enrollment of 360 pupils ; total days' attendance, 33,340 ; the school fund, \$2,322.38 ; teachers' wages for the year, \$2,259.80 ; incidental expenses of the schools, \$382.82. Highest wages paid, \$60 per month.

The improvements in roads have been no less rapid since 1835. The amount of road in the township is sixty miles, with an average width of three rods. In 1854 the road tax was ten cents on the one hundred dollars of taxable property ; in 1856, twenty cents ; from 1856 to 1865, ten cents ; from 1865 to 1877, the levy was twenty cents on the one hundred dollars, when the roads passed under the commissioners' law. In 1881 the levy was twenty cents on the one hundred dollars ; in 1882, twenty cents.

The township elections were first held at the school-house near Edward Brady's corner, but continued to be changed from here to Millersburg, and then from Millersburg back to Brady's corner, as it is called, till 1879, then by vote the place of holding elections was settled permanently at Brady's corner, and a town-hall built over the school-house for town and public purposes, except for dances, shows and such things that are considered to be detrimental to morality. The cost of the hall was \$387, a part of which was made up by private subscription to secure the use of the building from entertainments of the character mentioned.

The census report of 1880 gives the population as 1,071. The taxable property in the township in 1881 was valued at \$461,618. The real estate was valued at \$328,410, town lots at \$16,060, personal property at \$117,148. The equalized value was \$425,127.

The tax money collected on the above assessment, for general state purposes and schools, \$2,255.45; county purposes, \$1,065.25; road tax \$661.35; district school tax, \$2,391; dog tax, \$166.

The township has one railroad, the Keithsburg & Galva division of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy. For voting a tax of \$13,400 to the American Railroad Company, which built the road, a meeting was called in 1868, which carried by 114 votes for, to 27 against such donations. The bonds were issued in 1869, on ten years time. They have all been paid, the last in 1881, and the township feels wise enough not to vote any more such taxes, as the following call-meetings show.

In 1870 a meeting was called with the expectations that the township would vote an appropriation to the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Railroad Company, and for the donation there were 107 votes against 126. A second attempt was made to get the township to vote the tax, but with no better result this time; the votes when counted showed 106 for taxation and 117 against.

In conclusion let us add, the present population of the township are a thrifty, energetic, well-to-do, and hospitable people. In agriculture and stock raising they are up with the times, and few laggards exist among them. For a more extensive history of the prominent business men, farmers and stock raisers of the township, reference may be had to the biographical department of Millersburg township, where the personal and family history of almost all of them may be found.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Among the pioneer settlers yet living is WILLIAM H. RIGGS, a farmer and stock raiser, a native of Kentucky, born in 1828, son of Thomas M. and Rebecca B. (Jenkins) Riggs, both of Kentucky. The



Riggs family came from Virginia to Kentucky, but are of Scotch descent, as also is the Jenkins family. Both families emigrated to America at an early period in the history of the colonies. William H. Riggs' grandfather, Richard Jenkins, came to Mercer county in 1836, and was constable before the township organization. He died in Aledo. After his death his wife returned to Kentucky. William H. located in Mercer county, where he now resides, in 1836, where he has been engaged in farming and stock dealing. His early education was limited, as the advantages at that early period for education were few. When a young man he went one year to an academy at Galesburg. In 1851, he was married to Elizabeth Dungan, native of Indiana, born 1830, daughter of Benjamin and DeLabor Dungan, by occupation farmers. The former was a carpenter by trade. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and came to Mercer county with the early settlers. By this marriage William H. Riggs has one child, Thomas B., educated at Abingdon. He was married in 1872 to Loretta D. McClanahan, native of Mercer county, born in 1851, and daughter of James McClanahan, who came in 1837 and located in Mercer county, and now resides in Henderson. Thomas R. Riggs has, by this marriage, four children: Guy H., Robert A., Lillian (deceased), and James H. Thomas B. lives on the farm of his father, and helps to carry on the business. Among the fine stock men of Millersburg township William H. Riggs has been known for many years. He imports the best of cattle from the noted fine stock localities. While he makes cattle a specialty, both as to fine stock and feed cattle, he by no means keeps a poor grade of hogs and horses. His farm of 330 acres of plow land and seventy acres of timber is second to none, as a stock farm, in the township. Mr. Riggs is a genius, doing almost all his own work whether it be smithing, carpenter work or otherwise. While he has raised but one child of his own, several orphans have found under his roof a pleasant home, where they were the recipients of motherly and fatherly kindness.

The subject of this sketch, J. F. HARVEY, is a native of Indiana, born in 1833, son of Beauchamp and Margaret Harvey, both of Maryland. They emigrated to Indiana and settled on White river about 1825. They were both members of the Christian church. The former died in 1874, aged sixty-three years, the latter now makes her home with her children. Mr. Harvey was married in 1866 to E. J. McClure, of Indiana, daughter of John and Sarah McClure. They came to Mercer county about 1847, and now live in Abingdon township. J. F. Harvey has, by this marriage, two children: Charley B. and George F. Mr. Harvey came to Illinois in 1838 and located in



RICHARD KIDDOO.





Champaign county. He then emigrated to Missouri, and afterward came to Mercer county and located where he now resides. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He has a farm of 125 acres, fairly improved and stocked with good grades. He served in the army, during the late war, from 1861 to 1865, a period of three years and ten months, in the 18th Ill. Vol. He was in the battles of Fort Donelson, Pittsburg Landing, Britton's Lane; went down the Mississippi with Grant to Watervalley and back to Memphis; was in the siege of Vicksburg; was with Sherman on his march to the sea, then on the ocean, through the Carolinas, then to Richmond, Washington and Louisville, where he was mustered out. During his term of service in the army he passed through ten of the southern states.

Among the several old settlers and prominent gentlemen of Mercer county who have taken an active part in its development, we mention the name of EDWARD GRIFFITH, who was born November 13, 1834, in Hancock county, Indiana, and is the oldest child of Charles and Martha (Scott) Griffith. He came with his parents to Mercer county in 1839. As he was the oldest child he was so much needed at home that his education was limited to a common school. He remained at home until twenty-four years of age, when he started out in life for himself as a tiller of the soil. He purchased the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 14, in Millersburg township. He remained on this place for seven years, when he sold out and bought the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , of Sec. 12, where he remained for eight years, when he sold out and bought the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 18, Millersburg township, where he resides at present. He has been very successful in accumulating considerable property. March 24, 1859, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Church, daughter of Thomas and Rachel Church. She was born March 25, 1838. Mr. Griffith has been a member of the order of Masons since 1869.

WILLIAM KIDDOO, farmer and stock raiser, is a native of Pennsylvania. His parents are Richard and Eliza Kiddoo. He came to Mercer county with his parents when a child, and was reared on the farm, receiving only such educational training as the pioneer school of his neighborhood could furnish. He has always pursued the occupation of his father. He takes great pride in keeping a good grade of stock of all kinds. He is introducing on his farm shorthorn cattle. He was married in 1864 to Mary Edgar, daughter of R. S. and Elizabeth Edgar. She is a native of Pennsylvania and came with her parents to Mercer county when a girl. By this union William Kiddoo has eight children: Henry G., Harry (de), Francis (de), Maggie M., Alvin A., Nettie B., Nora B., Mary V. He and wife are members of the Metho-



dist Episcopal church at Joy. He has a farm of 330 acres of fine land, located in the south part of the township.

JEFFERSON FULLER, farmer, now resident of Millersburg township, near Joy, is a native of Maine, born in 1839, and came with his parents in 1842 to Mercer county, where he has since resided; here he was reared on the farm. He enlisted in company I, 17th Ill. Vol., in 1861, in which regiment he served three years, and then veteranized and was transferred to the 8th Ill. Vol., and continued in the service till June, 1866. He was in the battles of Frederickton, Shiloh, Fort Donelson; in the siege of Vicksburg, Mobile, and numerous skirmishes in Texas. At Fort Donelson he received a slight wound, the only one received during his term of service. He was married in 1866 to Josephine Awbery, native of Kentucky, and daughter of Gabriel W. Awbery, of Kentucky, who served during the war in the federal army as a volunteer from his native state. In 1865 the southern sentiment becoming too warm for a federal soldier in his own state he came north. Mr. Fuller has by this marriage two children: Mary O., and Dora E. His parents Jefferson and Tabitha (Libby) Fuller, located in New Boston township, where the former still lives, his wife having died when their son Jefferson was a child. Jefferson Fuller, Jr., raised four sons, three of whom were in the army. He and wife were members of the Baptist church. Jefferson Fuller, the subject of this sketch, began life for himself with such capital as nature supplied him, energy and muscle. He now owns a good farm of 100 acres, which he has well stocked.

David and Lucinda (Baldwin) Felton, the parents of our subject, HERCHEL FELTON, came to Scott county, Illinois, in the latter part of 1840, where they remained till the following spring, when they came to Millersburg, Mercer county, where the former died in 1849, at the age of thirty-six years. They were both natives of Vermont: he of Tunbridge, Orange county; she of Sharon, Windsor county. The parents of David Felton were Amos and Sarah Felton, both of Massachusetts. The parents of Lucinda Baldwin Felton were John and Lucinda (Clark) Baldwin. The former was born in 1783, the latter 1785. David Felton was by profession a school teacher, which business he followed till his death, clerking during the intervals between his schools. He was a member of the Congregational church. Mrs. Felton after the death of her husband returned to Vermont with her family, where she remained ten years. She now lives with her son Herchel, one mile east of Millersburg. Herchel was married in 1864 to Elizabeth Shafer, born in 1842, daughter of Aaron P. Shafer, whose history will appear on another page. By this marriage he has five

children: Milo P., deceased, Anna E., Benjamin R., Lucinda B., and Hiram E. He and wife hold to the Missionary Baptist faith. He was born in 1841, in Millersburg township, where he now resides. His early education was that of the common school. He enlisted August, 1861, in company H, 37th Ill. Vol. He was wounded at Prairie Grove, Arkansas, December 8, 1862, and was discharged the following February. Previous to his being wounded, he was in the battle of Pea Ridge. He held the office of sergeant in his company. His brother, Aaron D., enlisted in company C, 45th Ill. Vol., and died shortly after he was mustered into the service. His brother Hiram died in 1875, at the age of thirty-five, at home with his mother.

One of the old settlers of Millersburg township that remains is Asa Knox, who came to Mercer county in 1842, and located where he now lives. In 1841 he took a claim in what is now New Boston township. Mr. Knox is a native of Maine, born in 1814, and reared in the town of Jay, New Hampshire. His parents were Moses and Susana Knox, natives of Dover, New Hampshire. They emigrated to Maine shortly after their marriage. He was by trade a shoemaker. About 1841 he and wife joined the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1841 he located in Millersburg township, where he died in 1858, at the age of seventy-five years; his wife died in 1848, aged sixty-four years. Asa received no literary training beyond the common school. Disliking the trade of his father he chose farming for a livelihood, which he has always followed. He was married in 1836 to Elmira Perkins, native of Fairfield, Maine, born in 1815, daughter of Daniel and Polly Perkins, both of whom resided in Maine till their death. By this marriage Mr. Knox has eight children: David P., Sumner B., James T., Asa D., Margarette, Elzina, Ellen M. (deceased), Elmira (deceased). Sumner B. and James T. served in the army during the late war. The former enlisted March 14, 1865, in the 83d Ill. Vol., and was transferred to company E, 61st Ill. Vol., and served eight months. The latter enlisted in company I, 17th Ill. Vol., and was in the battles of Fort Blakely, Spanish Fort, and Jackson, Mississippi, and served three years. They both now live in Millersburg township. Asa Knox and wife are members of the United Brethren church, at the Palestine congregation in Abington township. He has a farm of sixty acres, on which he keeps a good grade of farm stock.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania; was born October 16, 1812, and is the son of Eli and Rachel Thornton, both of whom were of English descent and natives of Pennsylvania. H. W. THORNTON'S early education was limited to the common schools of the country at that time. In his eighteenth year,



William G. Hurley, Esq., a prominent lawyer in the county, gave him the privilege of his office for study (and with whom he read law), and in 1837 was admitted to practice in the courts of Columbia county. He came to Illinois and located in Millersburg in 1838, where for several years he followed his profession. In 1839 he was elected clerk of the county court, which office he resigned the following spring, being nominated and, in 1840, elected, with Hon. Thomas Drummond, now judge of the United States court in Chicago, to represent the ten northwest counties in the state legislature. In 1842 he was elected recorder of the county to fill a vacancy, and in 1844 re-elected for four years. At the end of the term the county seat was located at Keithsburg. For six or eight years he engaged in selling goods and in improving his farm adjoining the town of Millersburg. In 1858 he was elected president of the Warsaw, Rock Island & Galena Railroad Company, which position he held for ten years, and during his term of presidency secured the building of the line from Port Byron junction (six miles above Rock Island) to Savanna, a distance of forty-eight miles. After the completion of the road from Port Byron to Savanna, thirty-eight miles, Richard Irvin, senior member of the firm of Irvin & Brother, bankers, of New York, and financial agents of the Bank of Glasgow, Scotland, who furnished funds for the work, gave him the following letter as a testimonial:

“NEW YORK, April 25, 1866.

“*Dear Sir,*—I have pleasure in stating it as my opinion that to your exertions in presenting plans and surveys for extending the Northern Illinois railroad from Savanna to Port Byron, and in setting forth the feasibility and probable advantages of such extension, has it been owing that the work was undertaken and completed at a period of very high prices both of material and labor. Whatever benefit to your district of country has accrued, or may in future accrue, from the work referred to, you are fairly entitled, I should say, to great credit for the active and intelligent part you took in forwarding it.

“I remain, dear sir, yours truly,

“RICHARD IRVIN.

“H. W. THORNTON, Millersburg, Ill.”

Mr. Thornton was married February 25, 1839, to Elizabeth F. Norbury, of Philadelphia, born December 19, 1816, daughter of Joseph B. and Rebecca M. Norbury, both natives of Pennsylvania. By this marriage they had seven children; two died in infancy, one (Susan) at the age of twenty-one; four are now living: Martha N., Sarah E., Norbury W., and George E. Since 1868 he has lived quietly on his farm, and in the same house he built forty-three years ago.

RICHARD KIDDOO, deceased, was a native of Beaver (now Lawrence) county, Pennsylvania; born April 25, 1816. His parents, James and Mary Kiddoo, were natives of Pennsylvania, and emigrated to Millers-

burg township, Illinois, some two or three years after their son Richard. They located where Mrs. Bryant, formerly Mrs. John Kiddoo, now resides. Here they lived out their days in the faith of the Presbyterian church. Richard Kiddoo was married October 12, 1837, to Eliza Vannatta, native of Pennsylvania, born in 1821, and daughter of James and Betsy Vannatta, both of Pennsylvania. The former died in 1837, aged sixty-one years; the latter came in 1844 to Mercer county, where she remained four years; went to Jasper county, this state, and there died at the ripe old age of seventy-two years. They were of good family, well-to-do farmers, and honored members of the Presbyterian church. By this marriage Richard Kiddoo raised a family of thirteen children: Mary (deceased), William, James, John (deceased), Nancy, Eliza, Martha (deceased), Thomas, Hannah, Amos F., Cyrus C., Adda, Caroline S. In 1845 with his family he came to Mercer county and located in Millersburg township, where he resided till his death, which occurred February 3, 1882. He came here with small means, which, combined judiciously with his good business judgment and industry, crowned his life with success. He never engaged in speculation but made his money by raising grain and feeding stock. He left his family a property valued at \$50,000. To use the words of his neighbors, he accumulated wealth rapidly and practiced strict economy. But his economy was not of a close and penurious kind; his family lived comfortably and he gave generously to every public benefit. He was a man of warm impulses and strong convictions, and never inconsiderate of the convictions of others, a helper of the needy and a friend to all. His great simplicity of character and moral integrity won the esteem of many and commanded the respect of all. If many who are disposed to complain of their surroundings would adopt his rules of life they would move more smoothly over life's impediments. No man manifested greater interest in the upbuilding of Christianity and morality in the community than did Richard Kiddoo. "It will not be regarded a disparagement to others who were helpful in the same direction, to say the high morality and marked religious character of this community are largely due to the influence and efforts of Richard Kiddoo." The expression of all who knew him is that a good man has gone out from among us. He and his ancestors so far back as we are able to ascertain have been strict members of the Presbyterian church. His widow, who was a coworker in all his undertakings to build up society, the church, and to make home happy and pleasant for all, still resides on the farm where they have lived since they came to Illinois.



Among the first settlers of Millersburg township was M. H. Riggs and family. They located on section 30 as early as 1834. The surrounding country was then only a wilderness. He planted his first crop and fenced it afterward. Mr. Riggs is a native of Kentucky. He married in 1837 Juliette Froman, daughter of Thomas and Dice (Hichison) Froman, both of Virginia, but emigrated to Kentucky as pioneers, where their daughter Juliette was born and reared. They both died in Kentucky, members of the Baptist church. The offspring of this marriage is: Thomas, Isaac, William, James, Filman, Washington, Marion, Jasper, Clay. Mrs. Riggs lives on the old farm of 400 acres where they first located, and is the oldest settler living in the township at this time. Her son Marion resides with her. He was born and reared where he now lives. In 1862 he enlisted in the 124th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., company G, and served three years and a few days. He was in the siege of Vicksburg, with Smith at Mobile, the taking of the Spanish fort. He returned home and was married in 1865 to Sarah A. Hubbard, native of Illinois and daughter of Willard and Nancy Hubbard, the former of Massachusetts, the latter, Kentucky. By this union Marion Riggs has three children: Juliette, Nancy and Adda. He is a farmer, and keeps a good grade of farm stock, grade cattle and hogs and Cotswold sheep. In politics he is a republican straight.

W. A. BRIDGFORD, farmer, is by birth a Kentuckian, born in 1810, and the son of W. J. and Elizabeth Bridgford, both of whom were natives of Virginia and emigrated to Scott county, Kentucky, where our subject was born. In 1813 they moved to Ohio, where they both died, the former aged eighty-four, the latter thirty-six years. Mr. Bridgford was reared and educated in Ohio, where he resided till 1832, when he emigrated to Indiana, near Indianapolis, where he remained eight years, and then came to Illinois and located in Richland Grove township, where he remained till 1856, when he moved to Millersburg, where he has since lived. He was married in 1839 to Nancy Workland, native of Kentucky and daughter of Charles and Permelia Workland. They have ten children, five of whom are living: Oliver A., Malinda, Mary E., Martha and Laura, two of whom live in this county and three in Kansas. He has held the office of justice of the peace for about forty years and is now acting in that capacity. He also holds the office of notary public. When his present term expires he will have served in that office sixteen years. He held the office of collector eleven years. He belongs to both the secret orders, I.O.O.F and Masons. He sold goods in Millersburg from 1850 to 1860. The last few years he has been engaged in farming. Previous to leaving Ohio

he studied law and was admitted to the bar at Oxford in 1832, but never engaged in active practice. When he arrived in Mercer county his wealth in this world's goods for most part consisted of a team, and cow and six sheep. He now owns a farm of eighty acres in Mercer county, eighty acres in Kansas, and considerable town property.

Among the early settlers of Millersburg is Mr. JAMES VERNON. He made his advent into this county when it was yet almost a wilderness. His parents, Joseph and Sarah Vernon, settled in Warren county, Ohio, in 1812, where their son James was born; then moved to Preble county, Ohio, then to Shelby county, Indiana, where they lived out their natural lives. Mr. Joseph Vernon was a native of New Jersey, his wife of South Carolina. James Vernon, disliking the vocation of his father, which was that of mechanic, in early life engaged in farming, which he has pursued successfully till within the past few years, when he sold his land, reserving seventy-three acres for a home, and has virtually retired. In 1836 he married Eliza Duncan, native of Virginia, and daughter of Buford and Fanny Duncan, both of Virginia and among the first settlers of Duncan township. This marriage was blessed with three children: Thomas A., Sarah F., and Viola I. He and family are members of the Latter Day Saints church, but very different to the church at Utah. They disapprove of the doctrine of plurality of wives.

EDWARD BRADY, native of the "Buckeye" State, born in 1825, is the son of John, Sr., and Eliza Brady. The former is a native of Ireland, born about 1792, and came to America in 1813. He located in Green county, Ohio, where he remained about twenty-five years, when he came, about 1842, to Mercer county and settled on the farm where his son John now resides, where he lived during the rest of his life. His wife, a native of New Jersey, is yet living, and is seventy-seven years old, hale and hearty for a person of her age. They raised a family of twelve children, five of whom now live in Mercer county. Edward's early literary training was that of the common school. In 1848 he was married to Jane Gingles, native of Pennsylvania, born in 1827, and a daughter of James and Elizabeth Gingles, both of Pennsylvania. They came to Mercer county in 1839 and settled in Perryton township, where he died in 1872. His wife, Elizabeth, is yet living. Edward Brady has by this union five children: James N., Clara E., Ella M., Nellie J. (deceased), and Eddie G. He and wife are Presbyterians and belong to the society at Peniel church. He has held the office of school treasurer in Millersburg township for the past twenty years, and has been several times elected commissioner of highways. In politics he is a straight out republican. He has a



well-improved farm of sixty acres, where he has resided since he came to the county. He keeps a good grade of farm stock.

LUCIEN B. HOWE is one of the early settlers of the township and county. He came here when the deer were yet plenty on the prairies of Mercer county. He was born in Vermont, shortly after which his parents, Ezekiel and Louisa, moved to Troy, New York, where he was reared and educated. His parents were natives of Massachusetts, and descendants of the pioneer families. The Howe family at first, in America, consisted of three brothers who came from England to Massachusetts. Among their descendants is the great inventor of the Howe sewing machine. Lucien's father was a carpenter and joiner. He died in 1837, aged sixty-two years. His grandfather Howe fought at the battle of Bunker Hill. The subject of this sketch graduated at Union college, Schenectady, New York, in 1840, at the age of twenty-six, in the classical course. Then read law with J. P. Abertson, at his home in New York; was admitted to the bar in 1841, and practiced in Troy two years, then he came to Mercer county and located at Millersburg, where he has since resided. He has held the office of justice of the peace two terms. He is a charter member of the masonic lodge, at Aledo, and formerly a member at New Boston. He was married in 1846, to Martha King, a native of Massachusetts, and daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth King. They have six children, four of whom are now living: Charlotte A., Otis M., Calvin K., and David T. He has a farm of seventy acres and pursues his profession. In politics he is an old line democrat.

CHARLES YORK emigrated with his father to Illinois, in the fall of 1843, and located in Keithsburg township, where they remained a short time when they bought a farm in Abington township, which they sold and then went to Henderson county, where his mother died. His father died in October, 1874, aged eighty-two years. Charles York was born in Kentucky, in 1825, and is the eldest of a family of six children. His early educational training was limited. For eighteen years after he came to Illinois he broke prairie. He was married in 1855 to Mary J. Landreth, native of Mercer county, and daughter of Zacharia and Elenor Landreth, both natives of Virginia and among the early settlers of Mercer county. By this union he has seven children living: Nancy E., Nettie, Alice, Olive, Eva, William L., and Linie. Mr. York and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Millersburg. He has given his entire attention to farming and stock raising, both of which he has made successful. He now owns three farms in Mercer county, containing 432 acres. He brought with him and still retains the appreciation of a good horse, for which

Kentucky is so noted. He was assessor of Perryton township two years. Few men have been more successful than Mr. York.

Capt. OLIVER A. BRIDGFORD is a native of Ohio, born in 1830, and is the son of W. A. and Nancy (Wakland) Bridgford, whose sketch will appear in the biographical department of this township. Capt. Bridgford was educated in the common school, and came to Mercer county in 1843, one year after his father. His early life, till he was nineteen years old, was spent on the farm. At that age he went to California on a gold hunt; he went across the plains with a team, remained in California two years, when he returned by way of Cuba and New York, satisfied that gold was cheaper in Illinois than in the gold regions. In 1851 he settled in Millersburg, bought a half interest in his father's store, in which business he remained till 1861, when he raised Company I, 45th Ill. Vol., and entered the army, having been commissioned captain by Gov. Yates. He was in the battles of Fort Donelson, Fort Henry and Shiloh; was wounded in the last named engagement. Having remained some time in the hospital at Savannah, he was furloughed home, and returned after forty days. At the end of twelve months after he entered the service, he resigned his commission because of disability to discharge the duties of his office, caused by the wound received at Shiloh, and was discharged from the service and returned to his home in Millersburg. In the fall of 1862 he was elected sheriff of Mercer county, and served the full term, and then he returned to his store in Millersburg, where he continued till March, 1878. The following year he moved upon his farm near Joy, where he now resides, since which time he has given his farm his entire attention. Capt. Bridgford was married in February, 1852, to Miss Eliza A. McLain, native of Kentucky, born in 1833, and daughter of Joseph and Susan McLain, now residents of Millersburg. They have ten children, five living: Medora E., Clayton W., Minnie L., Archie G., Miles E. He owns a farm of 1,720 acres of land, all of which except eighty acres is in Mercer county. He raises thoroughbred cattle, Poland china hogs and Leicester sheep. He keeps on his farm 100 head of stock cattle, 200 hogs, 150 sheep, and horses to carry on his farm work. He is among, if not the largest, tax payers in Millersburg township. He is a charter member of the I.O.O.F. lodge at Millersburg, only two of whom are now living. Notwithstanding his disability from the wound received at Shiloh, he receives no pension, neither has he made application for one. Politically he is a republican.

The parents of EDWIN GILMORE, Judge Ephraim and Julia A. Gilmore, both of Ohio, came with the first settlers to Millersburg



township and located near the Peniel church. He was the county surveyor at the time the country was being settled, and held the office of judge. He raised his family in Millersburg township, and is now a resident of Aledo. Edwin Gilmore was reared and educated on the farm. The advantages for obtaining an education at that early period in the settlement of this part of the county were few. He was born in 1844, on the farm where he now lives, on section 21. In 1862 he enlisted in the service in Company C, 102d Ill. Vol., and served till the war closed. He was on the skirmish line till he left Chattanooga with Sherman's division on his march to the sea. He was married in 1870 to Miss Mary A. Morrow, native of Pennsylvania, daughter of David and Elizabeth (Kiddoo) Morrow. They have three children: Nellie, Burton, and Newton R. Mr. Gilmore and wife are members of the Presbyterian church at Peniel. He has a fine stock farm of 320 acres, and raises a good grade of cattle, sheep and hogs.

JOHN T. MCGINNIS, came to Mercer county in 1846, and located in Millersburg township. At that time the country was sparsely settled. Like most of the pioneers, he came with small pecuniary means, to seek a home. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born 1821. His parents are William and Elizabeth McGinnis, both natives of Pennsylvania, his father of Irish, and his mother of Scotch descent. They followed agriculture for a livelihood, and belonged to the United Presbyterian church. John T. received little literary training in his early life, but was well bred in the characteristics of the people of the Quaker state, namely, energetic industry and honesty. Two years before his coming to Mercer county he was married to Margaret Kiddoo, of Pennsylvania, born in 1824, and daughter of James and Mary Kiddoo, both natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis's children are Mary E., Sarah, Emily, William, Alice, Maggie, Charlie E., and Cora S. He was justice of the peace before the township organization, and has held the office of supervisor fourteen years. He represented Mercer and Knox counties in the legislature during the sessions of 1874 and 1875. Apart from the offices mentioned he has been chosen to fill most of the offices of the township. Mr. McGinnis has a beautiful home of 100 acres, located on section 21. Here he lives a quiet farmer's life, while his accumulated capital is employed in other directions. He has never engaged in speculation, but kept his means employed where reasonable returns were certain. He was at one time stock holder in a bank at Keithsburg, and at this time owns an interest in the Farmer's Bank in Aledo, and also in one in Kansas. He and wife are members of the Peniel Presbyterian church. Politically he is a republican.

JOHN BRADY, Jr., is the son of John and Eliza Brady, whose history

will be found in connection with the sketch written of Edward Brady. John Brady, Jr., was born in Green county, Ohio, in 1838. He came with his parents to Mercer county in 1842. He received no educational training beyond the district school. He was reared to the business of farming, which pursuit he has followed for a livelihood. In 1862, he enlisted in company D, 83d Ill. Vol., and served till July, 1865, making his term of service two years and eleven months. He was with the army of the Cumberland, in the second battle fought at Fort Donelson, and at Franklin, and Lawrenceburg. The remainder of the time he was kept chasing guerrillas. At Fort Donelson he was wounded. He was married in 1861 to Martha C. Gibson, daughter of George and Isreal Gibson, the former a native of Tennessee, the latter of Ohio. They were among the first to locate in Warren county, Illinois, in 1832. The indians had not quit the country. Among the slain by the Indians of Warren county was a brother to George Gibson. They were members of the Associate Presbyterian church. John Brady has four children: William, George P., Harry (deceased), and Mary. They hold letters of membership in the Presbyterian church. He has a well improved farm of 160 acres, and keeps a good grade of farm stock. He held the office of township clerk for several years, and is now commissioner of public highways. In politics he is a republican.

The subject of this sketch, WILLIAM KIDDOW, is a native of Lawrence county (now Beaver county), Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1830; came to Mercer county in 1847, and located with his parents, James and Margaret Kiddow, where his widow, now Mrs. Bryant, resides. He and wife and parents were members of the Presbyterian church. He married in 1853 Catharine Vance, native of Pennsylvania, born in 1834, and who came with her parents, William and Rachel (Vannatta) Vance, to Mercer county, and located in Keithsburg in 1836. They were members of the Presbyterian church. The former died in 1867, the latter now resides with her daughter Caroline, and is seventy-eight years old. William Kiddow had by this marriage seven children: E. Vila, Nancy, Olive, Forbes M., Mary, William M., and Rachel E. He left his family in good circumstances. Like the rest of the Kiddow family he was a man of exemplary habits, a good citizen, kind husband and father. His widow married in 1871 Frank B. Bryant of Ohio, by whom she has three children: Laura B., Frank (deceased), and Archie H.

JOHN S. KIDDOW, deceased, emigrated from his native state, Pennsylvania, to Illinois, in 1847, and located in Millersburg township, where he resided till his death in 1866, in the thirty-seventh year of his age. His parents were James and Mary Kiddow, who emigrated



to Mercer county at the same time as their son John S. Their remains repose in the cemetery of the old brick church. John S. Kiddoo, was married in 1850 to Eliza Day, of Pennsylvania, born in 1821, and emigrated with her parents, John and Mary Day, to Iowa, in 1836, and then to Mercer county in 1846, where they still reside. Her father, John Day, in early life was a boatman on the Mississippi river. He is a member of the United Brethren church, his wife of the Methodist Episcopal church. John S. Kiddoo had by this marriage six children: John, Robert (deceased), Mary (deceased), Alonzo, William (deceased), and Lizzie. John S. Kiddoo and wife were members of the Free Presbyterian church, but both united with the Methodist Episcopal church a few years before his death. His wife still remains a member of the church. He began in this county with small means; when he died left his family a property worth \$8,000. Alonzo, son of John S. and Eliza Kiddoo, was born in 1860, near where he now resides, in Millersburg township. His early educational training was that of the common school of the neighborhood. He is by occupation a farmer. He was married in 1881, to Florence Shingledecker, born in 1858, and daughter of James and Caroline Shingledecker, both of Pennsylvania. They came to Mercer county in 1858, and located near Joy, where they have since resided. Both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Joy. Alonzo Kiddoo and wife are members of the same church. They have a farm of 140 acres well stocked. In politics he votes the republican ticket.

MR. J. H. CRANE located in Millersburg township in 1849. His early education was that of the common school. He began business for himself as a farmer, which he followed ten years, when he opened a store in Joy and engaged in shipping grain, both of which he still carries on. He is the son of Dr. John W. and Ruth Crane, of Ohio, early settlers of Fountain county, Indiana. J. H. Crane was born in 1837. His parents came to Mercer county in 1847, and located on the old Bassett farm, where they died, his father in 1850, aged forty years, his mother in 1841. His parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. His father by profession was a doctor, and practiced in Illinois till his death. Mr. Crane was married in 1861 to Sarah A. Griffith, a native of Indiana, and daughter of Charles and Martha Griffith. In 1861 he enlisted in the army of the late war, in company K, 102d Ill. Vol. He was out twelve months, when he was discharged, because of ill health. He owns a fine farm of 240 acres, and is present postmaster at Joy.

Among the oldest citizens now living in Millersburg township is Mr. J. M. GILMORE. In 1840 he located in the village of Millersburg

and kept hotel for two and a half years, then moved upon his farm east of the village, where he remained till seven years ago when he returned to take up his residence in Millersburg, where he now resides. He came to Mercer county with small means which, combined with unabating energy, has made him a successful farmer. He owns a fine farm of 354 acres of plow land and 100 acres of timber. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1814; his father of Pennsylvania and his mother of New Jersey. In 1847 they came and settled in Perryton township, Mercer county, where the former died in 1857, aged seventy-two. His wife, who is still living, is a devoted member of the Presbyterian church. They raised a family of nine children, all of whom grew up to adult age. Three yet remain in Mercer county. J. M.'s early educational training was such as the common schools of his neighborhood could furnish. He served an apprenticeship to a tanner, and began immediately to raise the material for making leather instead of dressing it. He held the office of county assessor for six years, and also the office of county treasurer for the same time. He was married in 1838 to Margaret Taylor, of Pennsylvania, born in 1815, daughter of Jacob and E. (Hoover) Taylor, both of Pennsylvania. By this union Mr. Gilmore had eight children, five of whom are now living: George M. (deceased), Eva C., Catharine (deceased), Taylor, Mary, Richard (deceased), Jannett, and Fanny A. George M. served three years in company E, 9th Ill. Inf.; was veteranized and promoted to steward. He was wounded at Fort Donelson, having his index finger on the left hand carried away by a ball. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and died of disease in the service two months before the war closed. Taylor served three years in the 14th Ill. cavalry, and was commissioned hospital steward. He and wife are ardent supporters of christianity and good morals, and belong to the Presbyterian church at Millersburg. In politics he has always been a democrat.

J. D. THORNTON is a native of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and born in 1828, and is a son of Eli and Abigail (Hittle) Thornton, both natives of Pennsylvania. J. D.'s early education was limited to the subscription school of his home. He learned the trade of blacksmithing in his father's shop. This he followed ten years, when he left the forge to enlist in the service of his country. He served in the army through the Mexican war. His soldierly qualities were soon recognized, and he was appointed to fill the first vacancy in Capt. Pemberton's company, to which he belonged, which was the office of sergeant. He was with Scott when he made his campaign to the city of Mexico. Then he joined the U. S. marines and went to West Africa to suppress



the slave trade. In 1862 he again enlisted in the 124th Ill. Vol. Inf., company G, and served three years as sergeant. He was with Grant and in all the rear battles at Vicksburg, the siege of the Spanish Fort, and the taking of Mobile, making in all seven years he has served his country as a soldier. In 1849 he came to Illinois and settled at Millersburg where he has since resided. J. D. Thornton was married in 1855 to Lucy Wharton, a native of Ohio, and daughter of Jacob and Martha Wharton. She died in 1871. He was married a second time to Letticia L. Carver, a native of Pennsylvania, and daughter of Jesse Carver, a descendant of Gov. Carver, first governor of Massachusetts. Mr. Thornton has been a republican since the organization of the party.

J. W. Wood is a native of Tennessee, born in 1810, and is the son of Isaac and Elenor Wood, both of whom were natives of Virginia. They located in Indiana in 1822, where they died, the former in 1839, aged sixty years; the latter in 1852, aged eighty-two years. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and respected members of society. Isaac Wood by trade was a wheelwright, by profession a local preacher. J. W. Wood emigrated to Indiana with his parents where he remained till 1842, when he came to Mercer county where he has since lived. He is a carpenter by trade, which he followed till within the few years past. He was first married in 1832 to Frances Reed, native of Indiana, daughter of Jacob and Mary Reed, of South Carolina. She died in 1869, aged fifty-eight years, leaving nine children, of whom the living are James R., Enos A., and Samuel S. He was married a second time to Mrs. M. C. Robinson, native of England, born in 1830, and daughter of George and Catharine Stafford, natives of England. J. W. Wood has held the office of justice of the peace most of the time during his residence in Illinois, is now notary public, and served one term as constable. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Joy. In politics he votes the republican ticket. He keeps the only hotel in Joy.

The subject of this sketch, DAVID A. STEELE, came to Mercer county with his parents, James and Mary Steele, in 1860. They located on section 29 in Millersburg township, where they both died, the former in 1856, at the age of sixty-five years; the latter in 1868, aged seventy-six years. They were natives of Pennsylvania, and successful farmers, and members of the Presbyterian church. David was born in 1832, and reared and educated on the farm of his father in the Quaker state. In 1859 he was married to Matilda Denison, native of Illinois, and daughter of Joseph and Sarah Denison, both of whom were from Ohio. By this union he has ten children, seven of whom

are living: Elizabeth, William, Walter, Cora, Maud, Fred., and Ashel. He has a farm of 130 acres, well improved and fairly stocked with a good grade of farm stock. In politics he votes with the republican party. He is a man who takes great interest in supplying his children with literature to feed their minds. He has always lived a quiet life without seeking the notoriety of office.

The subject of this sketch, JAMES E. BAY, is the son of James and Hannah E. Bay, both of whom are natives of Pennsylvania, and emigrated to Ohio at an early period of its settlement. They were farmers. The former was a soldier in the war of 1812, and emigrated to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he died in 1843, aged fifty-two years; the latter died in 1856, aged fifty-six years. J. E. Bay was born in 1829, in Guernsey county, and in 1851 came to Millersburg where he has since lived. He was married in 1860 to Mary Marsh, a native of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and daughter of John B. and Lydia (Porter) Marsh, the former of New Jersey, the latter of Pennsylvania. The former was a soldier in the war of 1812. He and family moved in 1848 to Illinois, where he died in 1864, aged seventy-three years; his wife in 1834, aged thirty-six years. He was by trade a carriage trimmer. He first emigrated to Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, from New Jersey. The Marsh family were formerly from Scotland. J. E. Bay has by this union four children: H. M., John M., Fanny S., and Catharine M. Mr. Bay is a farmer and stock trader. He has several times been chosen by the voters of his township to fill various offices. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church at Millersburg. Mr. Bay and family are quiet and respectable citizens.

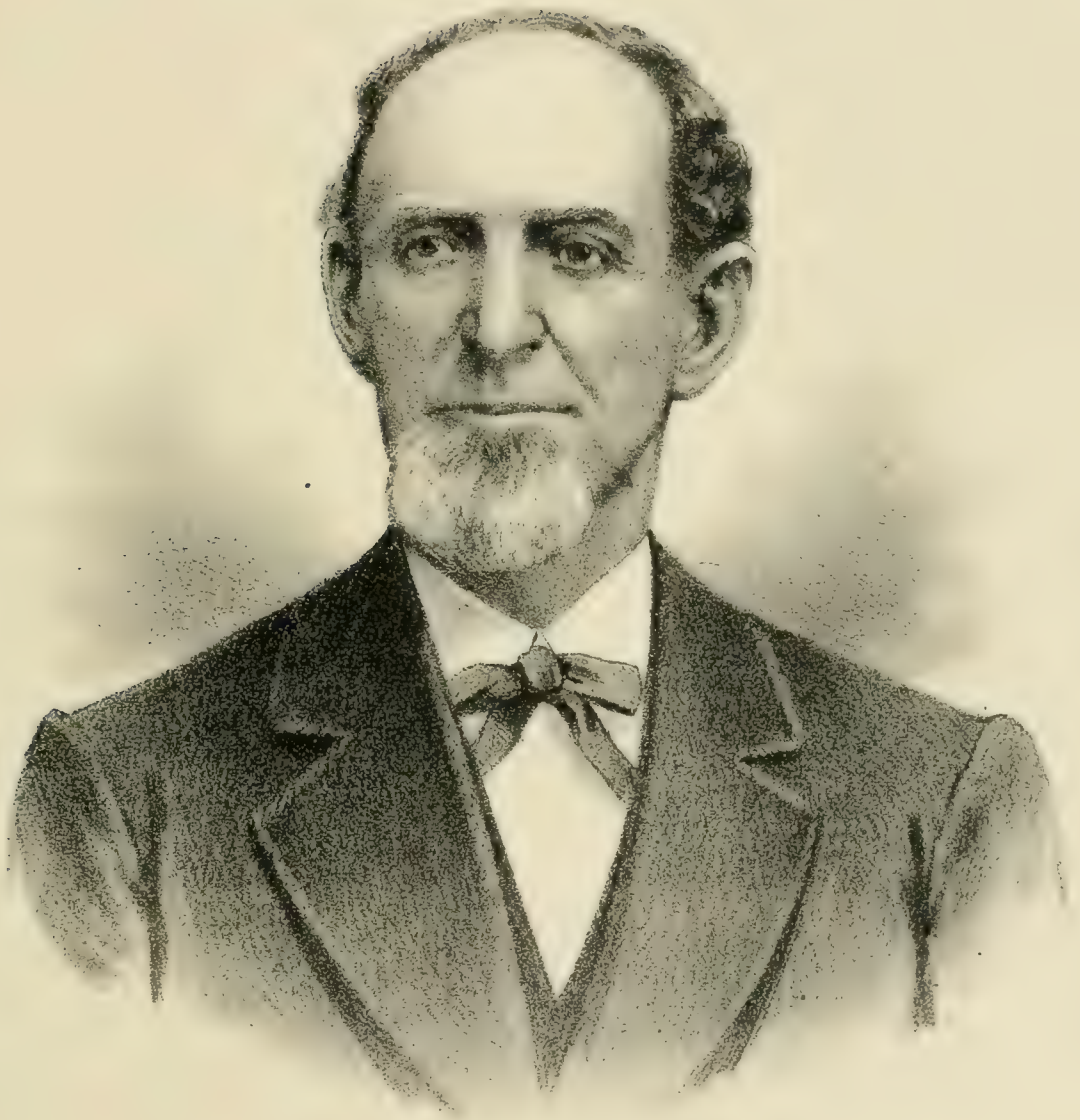
Among the early settlers of this township is RICHARD S. EDGAR. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1818, and came to Mercer county in 1851 and located in Millersburg township where he has since been a citizen. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania, members of the Associate Presbyterian church, and died there, his father, Richard, in 1861 at the age of sixty-five years; his mother, Margaret, in 1862, aged sixty years. R. S. Edgar was married in 1841 to Elizabeth A. Steele, daughter of James and Mary Steele, of Pennsylvania. They have three children: Margaret, James S., and Mary A. He served three years in the late war as a soldier, in Company A, 30th Ill. Vol. Inf., during which service he lost his health and now receives a pension. He owns a well improved farm of thirty acres, and keeps a good grade of farm stock. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Joy. In politics he is a republican.

JACOB BRAUCHT, son of David and Mary Braucht, was born in 1828 and is a native of Pennsylvania, as were his parents. They emigrated



to Ohio when their son Jacob was a mere child, where they resided the remainder of their lives. They were pioneer settlers of Ohio. Jacob remained in Ohio until he arrived at the age of twenty-three and then came to Mercer county and located on section 19, Millersburg township, where he has since resided. He has pursued the occupation of farming, the vocation of his father. He married, in 1851, Christina Riter, a native of Germany and daughter of John F. and Machdalana Riter, who came to America in 1831 and located in Ohio, and afterward to Mercer county, locating in Millersburg township. The latter died in 1871, aged seventy years. The former, John F. Riter, resides with his daughter, Christina. He served as a soldier in his native country, Germany. Jacob Braucht has by this marriage six children: Jemima, David W., Lucinda, Sarah (deceased), George, and Catharine. He has a fine farm of 227 acres, well improved and well stocked with the best of farm stock. No better stock farm is to be found in this section. In politics he is a democrat. His parents and also his wife's parents were of the Lutheran faith. His wife's father, John F. Riter, still holds his membership in that church.

Among the citizens and soldiers now resident of Millersburg township is GEORGE BOONE, native of Ohio, born in Medina county in 1837. His parents were Hezekiah and Sarah A. (Greene) Boone, the former of Pennsylvania, a great-nephew of Daniel Boone, the Kentucky hunter, the latter also of Pennsylvania. They emigrated to Medina county with its early settlers with their parents, and were married there. They came to Mercer county in 1851. The latter, George's mother, died in 1857, aged thirty-eight years. Her remains repose in the Millersburg cemetery. The former is a tailor by trade and now lives at Fort Dodge, Nebraska, and is a member of the Lutheran church. His wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. George Boone came to Mercer county with his parents and located in this township, then went to Perryton township, where he resided for a time, and also for a while in Aledo. His early education was that of the common school. He first enlisted in Company I, 17th Ill. Vol., served two years and was discharged because of ill health. In 1864 he, in company with R. S. Osborne, raised a company for the 140th Ill. Vol. Osborne was captain of the company, and George held the office of first lieutenant. The company was out seven months. He was in the battle of Fort Donelson and a part of the two days' fight at Shiloh. During his second term of service the company was detailed to fight the guerrillas. He was married in 1865 to Mrs. Nancy J. Fullerton, daughter of Robert and Eliza Shearer. By this marriage George Boone has one child, Ella F. His wife by her former husband has one



JAMES VERNON.





daughter, Mary A. Fullerton. He has a nicely improved farm of eighty acres, and a good grade of farm stock.

JAMES K. MORROW was born in 1852, on the farm where he now resides. His parents, David and Elizabeth (Kiddoo) Morrow, were both natives of Pennsylvania. The latter was the daughter of James Kiddoo. David Morrow came to Mercer county with his family in 1847 and located in Millersburg township, where he resided till his death, which occurred in 1854, in his thirty-seventh year. His wife, mother of James K., died in 1872. They were married in 1846 and raised a family of four children, two sons and two daughters. They were quiet farmers and good citizens and members of the Presbyterian church. They left their children in good circumstances. Their son, James K., occupies the old homestead of 120 acres. He pursues the vocation of his father. He keeps a good grade of farm stock. He has imbibed the republican spirit of his neighborhood. His early educational training was that of the common school.

DR. JOSEPH P. BOYD, deceased, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, in 1826. His parents were James and Hester Boyd, both members of the Christian church. Dr. Boyd early exhibited a fondness for books, and at the age of sixteen entered the profession of school teaching, which he followed till he began reading medicine with Dr. James Ruby at Abington, Indiana. He began the practice of his chosen profession at Bentonville, Indiana, then went to Randolph county, where he remained two years, and then came to Millersburg in 1852, where he had a large practice. He began life for himself with limited means, but died in 1878, leaving his family in easy circumstances. He was married to Ellen Commons, daughter of William and Sarah Commons, who emigrated from England to America. The Commons family in England were members of the aristocracy. The offspring of this marriage were three children: William C., Sarah H., and Omer. He was a member of the masonic order at Aledo, and the Mercer County Medical Society. The community mourned his death as a great loss. He was a man respected for his ability and thorough going business ability.

THOMAS LANDRETH is a native of Owen county, Indiana, where he was born in 1842. His parents, Zacharia and Elonder (Fender), both natives of Virginia, settled in Owen county, Indiana, about 1825, where the subject of our sketch was reared and educated on the farm. In 1852 they came to Mercer county and located in Perryton township, where the former died in 1872, aged sixty years; the latter in 1875, aged sixty years. They were quiet, good farmers and earnest supporters of good society, and were members of the Missionary Baptist



church. Our subject came to Mercer county when a small boy with his parents. He had two brothers, Crisby and Andrew, in the army in the late war. The former belonged to the 126th Ill. Vol., and died at La Grange, Tennessee, but a few months after his enlistment; the latter died two days later at the same place. Mr. Landreth is a member of the I.O.O.F. at Millersburg. He was married in 1865, to Rachael Reed, a native of Mercer county, born in 1843, and a daughter of Harper and Louisa (Drury) Reed, early settlers in Mercer county. They have three children: Lillie M., William R., and Nola L. He has a farm of ninety acres well suited to stock raising. He keeps a good article of farm stock. He and wife are members of the Missionary Baptist church. In politics he is a Greenbacker.

CARY DRYDEN is a native of Ohio, born in 1840, and is a son of J. M. and Elizabeth (Ellis) Dryden, the former of Ohio, the latter of Virginia. She came to Ohio with her parents when eleven years old. J. M. and Elizabeth Dryden came to Illinois in 1851, and located in Peoria county, where they remained till 1853, when they came to Mercer county. In 1855 they went to Iowa, but returned to Mercer county in 1864, where the former died in 1872, aged sixty-eight years; the latter is living in Keithsburg, this county, and is seventy-four years old. Cary Dryden accompanied his parents, first to Peoria county, then to Mercer county and to Iowa, and returned in 1858 to Mercer county, where he has since lived. He has pursued the occupation of farming all his life, except three years and one month he served in the army. He enlisted in 1861 in company G, 27th Ill. Vol. He was a non-commissioned officer all the time of his service, and was in the battle of Belmont, siege of Island No. 10, the numerous skirmishes around Corinth, battle of Stone River, Chickamauga, siege of Knoxville, Resaca, Georgia, and Kenesaw Mountain, where he was wounded and taken to the hospital, where he remained till after his term of enlistment expired. In 1867 he was married to Catharine Wolfe, native of Illinois and daughter of Solomon and Evaline (Marlatt) Wolfe, both of Indiana, and came to Mercer county with its early settlers. Mr. Dryden by this marriage has four children: Eva (deceased), Mary, Frederick, Nellie L. He and his wife are members of the Seventh Day Advent church, at the Marsh school-house. He has a farm of 160 acres of fine land, well improved, located near the south line of the township, upon which he keeps a good grade of all kinds of farm stock.

JOHN BELL is a son of John and Mary (Clifford) Bell, both of Ireland. He was born in Ohio in 1848, and came with his parents to Illinois in 1862. He was reared on the farm. His early education

was such as he could get in the district school. He was married in 1881 to Florence S. Adams, native of Illinois, born in 1858, and daughter of Samuel and Mary Adams, of Kentucky. They came to Rock Island county, Illinois, with its early settlers, and now reside in Eliza township, Mercer county. The former is a member of the Latter Day Saints church. Mr. Bell has by this marriage one child, Harry Earl. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Aledo; his wife is a member of the Latter Day Saints church. He has a farm of 160 acres of fine land fairly stocked. Politically he is a democrat.

The subject of this sketch, WILLIAM A. MARSH, is by birth a native of New York, born in 1833, son of M. L. and Eliza Marsh, both of New York. They came to Mercer county in 1853, and are now residents of Aledo, where the former is justice of the peace. M. L. Marsh is by vocation a farmer. He first settled in Illinois, in Millersburg township, where he now owns a farm of 150 acres. He and wife first moved to New York city, where their son, William A., was born; then to Buffalo, New York; from there to Licking county, Ohio; then to Illinois, where they have since resided. William A.'s early education was that of the common school and two years as a student in a graded school. He accompanied his parents in all their removals till they located in Mercer county, and then he located on the farm where he has since resided. While he has pursued the vocation of farming for a livelihood, he has by no means given all his time and thought to making the farm pay, but is one of the most active members of the Mercer County Historical and Scientific Society, the truth of which his large collection of well-arranged specimens of shells, woods, grasses and Indian implements demonstrate without further question. No one, we have good reason to believe, has added more to the conchology and botany of Mercer county than Mr. Marsh. So large is his collection in these two sciences, and that of Indian implements, that one who has any taste in either of these directions could spend months in his cabinet with both pleasure and profit. The proficiency Mr. Marsh has acquired in these branches of science clearly shows that success depends upon the amount of labor we give to one thing, and not to the number of branches we take up. Mr. Marsh was married in 1855 to Mary J. Patterson, of Licking county, Ohio, born in 1837, daughter of Wilson and Isa Patterson, both of Pennsylvania. They emigrated in 1835 to Mercer county, where they are both living. They are members of the predestinarian Baptist church, and farmers by occupation. Mr. Marsh has nine children: Philip, Eliza, Francis L. (deceased), Mary J., Isa R., William A., Frederick A., Wilson, and Estella E. Mr. Marsh has a good farm of 240 acres, well improved



and fairly stocked with a good grade of farm stock. In politics he votes for the man, not for the party.

A. A. SHERER, the subject of this history, is a native of Pennsylvania, Lawrence county, born in 1839. His parents were Robert and Eliza Sherer, both of Pennsylvania. The latter died in 1841; the former was married a second time in 1843, and came to Mercer county in 1853, where he died in 1861, aged fifty-six years. His business was that of stock dealing. At the time of his death he owned 600 acres of land. He was a devoted Christian and member of the Presbyterian church, as was also both his wives. His second wife now lives in Joy. Robert Sherer did much to improve the stock of horses in the county. No one carried off more first premiums from the county fairs than he. A. A. Sherer came to Mercer county with his father. His early education was limited to the district school. He was reared to the business of the farm, which he has always followed. He was married in 1861 to Hannah Church, native of Illinois, born in 1841, daughter of Thomas and Rachel Church, both of Indiana, and early settlers of New Boston township. They were prominent farmers and respected citizens of the community where they resided. The former died, 1859, aged forty-eight years; the latter in 1871, aged seventy-three years. Mr. Sherer has by this marriage seven children: Ella M., Willie T. (deceased), Robert C., Jane E., Adda P. (deceased), Rachel C., and Frank E. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian faith and hold their membership with the congregation at the Peniel church; and also his two eldest children have embraced christianity in the same church. Mr. Sherer has a fine stock farm three miles south of Millersburg, which consists of 420 acres. He deals in both stock and fat cattle. His herd of sheep is of the Leicester stock; hogs, Poland China. He follows in the footsteps of his father as to class of stock he keeps.

The Wilitts family came from Pennsylvania to Mercer county among its early settlers; but at the present writing but few of the once large family resident remain. THOMAS WILITTS was born in Columbia county, Tennessee, in 1804. His parents, Nathaniel and Sarah Wilitts, were natives of Pennsylvania, where they lived out their lives. His mother lived to the ripe old age of 60; his father died ten years younger. His vocation was that of a shoemaker. Thomas came to Mercer county in 1854 and settled in Duncan township, where he now owns a farm, and lived there till the winter of 1881-2, when he retired from active farm life and took up his abode in Millersburg. In 1828 he was married to Margaret Taylor, of his native state. She was born in 1810, and is a daughter of Christopher Kahler, a native of Germany.

They had twelve children, eight of whom are now living: William, Townsend, practicing physician in Philadelphia; Horace, Charles, Norman, Thomas, Maggie, and Chester. His four sons, Norman, Chester, Charles, and Horace, were soldiers in the late war. The first served as quartermaster; the second, in the 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., was out three years, and was with Sherman on his march to the sea; the third served eight months in the 9th Ill. cavalry; the fourth served six months in the 27th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church in Millersburg. In politics he is a straight out republican.

S. H. RIDDELL is a native of Clinton county, Ohio, born in 1840, and came to Mercer county with his parents, Humphrey and Mary (Morl) Riddell, in 1855. His father was a native of Maryland, his mother of Pennsylvania. The former emigrated from his native state to Pennsylvania, where he was married, and emigrated to Ohio in 1836, where he remained till he came to Mercer county. He died in 1871, at the ripe age of seventy years. His wife now resides in Aledo and is sixty-four years old. He was by trade a shoemaker, by vocation a farmer, and superintended the county farm for ten years. He and wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The early literary training of S. H. Riddell was that of the common school. He began a collegiate course at Delaware, Ohio, but owing to his ill health it had to be abandoned. From the age of twelve he was reared on the farm, which business he followed for himself only three years. In 1861 he was married to Sarah F. Vernon, born in 1843, daughter of James and Eliza Vernon, whose history will appear elsewhere. Mr. Riddell by this union has five children: Jennett, James (deceased), Frank A., Milo A., and Thomas V. In 1865 he engaged in the mercantile business in Millersburg, which he carried on till 1871. Since that time he has been employed as clerk, and is now engaged by W. W. Egbert. He now holds the offices of notary public and supervisor, and has filled most of the township offices. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a member of the I.O.O.F. lodge.

JOHN FARAN came to Millersburg in 1855, where he has since resided. He is by trade a plasterer, which trade he followed till 1879, when he engaged in the grocery business. In 1882 he bought the store of J. D. Strattan, and now is engaged in general merchandise. In connection with his store he keeps the postoffice. Mr. Faran is a native of Dearborn county, Indiana, born in 1832, son of John and Stinche Faran. The former was a native of Ireland. He first located in Cincinnati, where he was married, and then came to Indiana and



settled in Dearborn county, where his son John was born. The wife of the latter was a native of Ohio. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The former died in 1835, at the age of thirty-eight years. The latter then moved to Topeka, Kansas, where she died in 1867. Mr. Faran was married in 1857 to Harriet Riddell, daughter of Humphrey and Mary Riddell, whose history will appear in the sketch of S. H. Riddell. By this marriage he has three children: Jeneva J., Ida, and Howard. Mr. Faran is one of the men now living in Millersburg who was instrumental in driving the saloons from the village and stopping the whisky traffic. He now has a good business, with an increasing trade.

HENRY HUFFMAN, farmer and stock-raiser, Aledo, was born in Pennsylvania in 1824, and is the son of Henry and Charity (Feazel) Huffman, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, and resided in Washington county. The former died in 1827, aged forty-five years, and the latter in 1845, aged fifty-two years. They were farmers and members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and were quiet, well-to-do and highly-respected people in their community. Henry Huffman came to Mercer County in the fall of 1854, and located in Keithsburg, where he resided till the following spring, when he located on section 25, Millersburg township, where he has since lived. He was married in 1854 to Mary Witherspoon, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1831, daughter of John and Margaret (Kennedy) Witherspoon. They were members of the Presbyterian church, known as Seceders. They were peaceable farmers and highly respected citizens. Mr. Huffman has six children: John (deceased), Maison B., Samuel L., Willie E. and Dora A. (twins), and George W. He and wife are members of the United Presbyterian church. He has a farm of 208 acres of fine farming land, located one-half mile from the east line of Millersburg township and four miles from the county seat. He keeps a good grade of all kinds of farm stock.

Among the business men of Millersburg is J. D. STRATTAN, native of Clinton county, Ohio, born in 1839. His parents were David and Harriet (Hinman) Strattan; the former of Lynchburg county, Virginia, the latter of Connecticut, near New Salem. They came to Mercer county and located at Millersburg in 1855, then emigrated to West Liberty, Iowa, where the former died in 1867, aged seventy-four years. The latter then moved to Mt. Vernon, Illinois, where she died in 1880, at the age of seventy-three years. David Strattan was by profession a merchant and did business in Cincinnati as early as 1812-13. He sold goods both at Millersburg and West Liberty, Iowa, where he resided at the time of his death. David Strattan and wife were members of the

Hicksite Friends. J. D.'s literary education was that of the common school. He learned the business of merchandise with his father. He began business for himself as a merchant in 1863, in Millersburg, at which he continued till 1882, with the exception of one and a half years, during which time he engaged in farming. In 1881 he and Lunn established in Millersburg a creamery, to which he now gives all his time and attention. He was married in 1862 to Fanny E. Merrimar, native of Maine, born in 1843, daughter of Thomas and Mary E. Merri-man, who came to Illinois about 1844. By this marriage he had six children, three of whom are living: Ora A., Frank P., and George C. The mother of these died in 1880. He was married a second time to Adella V. Turner, native of Illinois, daughter of John H. and Mary J. Turner. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a member of the I.O.O.F. lodge at Millersburg.

WILLIAM VALENTINE is the son of Absalom and Susan Valentine, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio when a child, with his parents. The latter is a native of Ohio. They emigrated to Mercer county in 1855, having spent the winter of 1854-5 in Lawrence county, Illinois. They located in Mercer county, where Absalom Valentine died, in 1864, aged sixty-two years. His wife is now living with her son William, and is seventy-four years old. She is an old soldier of the cross in the Methodist Episcopal church, and holds her membership at Joy. William Valentine received but a meager literary education such as he was able to obtain during the winter months, in the district school of his neighborhood. He was reared to the vocation of farming, which he has followed. He was born in Ohio in 1837, and came with his parents to Mercer county in 1855, where he has since resided. He enlisted in the service of his country in 1862, in company K, 102d Ill. Vol., and served till the close of the war, and was mustered out June 6, 1865. He was in the battles of Resaca, Georgia, at the siege of Atlanta, and with Sherman, on his march to the sea, at Goldsborough, and Savannah, and from there to Richmond, and Washington. He was married in 1869 to Easter Bell, daughter of John and Margaret Bell. By this marriage he has one child, Benjamin H. He has a farm of 120 acres of fine land, and keeps a good grade of farm stock.

WILSON P. ZENTMIRE's parents, David and Dianna (Minick) Zentmire, emigrated from their native state, Ohio, where their son, Wilson P., was born, to Illinois, in 1855, and located in Abington township, Mercer county, where they resided nine years. They then moved to Millersburg township, where the former died in 1870, aged sixty years, the latter in 1869, aged forty-nine years. He was a carpenter and



farmer. The Zentmires family emigrated to America from Germany at an early time. Wilson P. came to Mercer county with his parents, when eight years old. His early education was such as the common schools of that time could furnish. He has given his entire time to farming. He was married in 1868, to Miss Nancy Kiddoo, daughter of Richard and Eliza (Vannatta) Kiddoo, whose sketch will appear in the work. They have five children: Harry, Hattie, Ray (deceased), Velly (deceased), and Tuse. He owns a fine stock farm of 160 acres, and keeps a good grade of farm stock. In 1881 he had his house on section 33, burned, loss \$2,200, \$1,300 of which was covered by insurance. Politically he is a republican.

WILLIAM M. MILLER, farmer and teacher, is one of the early teachers in Millersburg. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1829. His early educational training was that of the common school of his home, and ten months at an academy. Five years previous to his coming to Illinois, which was in 1855, he began teaching in his native state, when he was in his nineteenth year, and has taught school eighteen years in Millersburg township, lodging at the same house all this time, making twenty-three years he has spent in the profession. His parents, James and Mary (McCreary) Miller, were natives of the Quaker state. The former died in 1881, aged seventy-seven years, the latter is yet living and is in her seventy-third year. His parents were well-to-do farmers, and members of the Westfield Presbyterian church. His father came from Ireland; his mother's family, the McCrearys, emigrated to Pennsylvania in its early settlement. Mr. Miller was married in 1856 to Miss Elizabeth Galaway, native of Ohio. She came with her parents to Mercer county in 1854 and located in Millersburg township. Her parents were natives of Ohio. They had previously emigrated to Kansas. There the father died in 1874, aged sixty-three years. The mother is still living. Mr. Miller by this marriage has a family of eight children: Mary J., Laura B., Eva S., Granville S., Jessie S., John G., Mattie R., and Lizzie L. He and family, except the three youngest, are members of the Presbyterian faith. His present occupation is that of farming. He has a fine farm of eighty acres, on which he keeps a good grade of farm stock. In politics he is a republican.

AARON P. SHAFER is a native of New York state, born in 1811, son of Adam and Hellena Shafer, both of New York. He was by occupation a farmer. For a number of years he held the office of colonel of the state militia. Both were members of the Baptist church. They were reared, educated and spent their lives without emigrating from their native state. Their son, Aaron P., was reared on the farm with

such educational advantages as the pioneer schools of his boyhood could furnish, which were limited. He lived on the farm till he arrived at the age of twenty-three. He was then engaged for a time as clerk in a store, then began in the mercantile business in New York for himself, which he followed for a time when he sold out his business and bought a farm which he sold and came to Illinois in 1856, and located in Millersburg, where he has since resided. Here he learned the wagonmaker's trade and has carried on a shop since 1856. He was married in 1841 to Eliza Davis, of New York, born in 1818, daughter of John S. and Elizabeth Davis, both of New York. They were well-to-do farmers. Mr. Shafer has by this marriage two children: Elizabeth, now Mrs. Felton, and Annie A. Their mother died in 1846. He has since remained unmarried. He is a member of the Baptist church, and a republican in politics.

WILLIAM C. BOYD, farmer and stock raiser, was born in Indiana in 1847, and is the son of Dr. Joseph P. and Ellen (Commons) Boyd, whose history will appear in the sketches of Millersburg township. William C. came to Mercer county with his father when a mere boy. His educational training was that of the village school at Millersburg. During his boyhood his father was engaged more or less in stock raising, for which William C. formed a liking and has chosen for a livelihood. He lives one mile west of Millersburg, near the line between Millersburg and Duncan townships, on a part of the farm owned by his father, which consists of 640 acres, and is yet undivided between his three children. William C. Boyd was married in 1873 to Emma Longshore, native of Indiana, born in 1853, and came to Mercer county with her parents, J. H. and Sally (Hadley) Longshore. Mr. Boyd has by this marriage two children: Archie L. and Edna. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Millersburg. In politics he is a republican.

JOSEPH A. DOWNEY is the son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Wilson) Downey, both of whom are natives of Ireland. He first located in Pennsylvania where he worked upon the railroad for several years, then came to Mercer county where he rented land for a while, and now owns a fine farm of 419 acres in Millersburg township, where he resides. He was married in Philadelphia and has a family of eleven children: Joseph A., John, Mary (deceased), William, Wilson, Andrew, Martha, Annie (deceased), Moses, George (deceased), and Harry. Joseph, the eldest of his father's family, is a native of Mercer county, born in 1858. He was married in 1881 to Mary McGinnis, of Mercer county, daughter of John J. McGinnis now a resident of Duncan township, Mercer county. Joseph A. lives on the farm of his father



and keeps a good grade of farm stock. His early educational training was that of the common school. He was reared on the farm and this business he has always followed.

JAMES H. LONGSHORE was formerly from Bucks county, Pennsylvania. He first emigrated from his native state to Ohio, Clinton county, where he remained till 1852, then he moved to Indiana, where he remained seven years, when he came to Mercer county and located in Millersburg, where he has since remained, pursuing the trade of his choosing for a livelihood. He was born in 1823. His parents, James and Sarah Longshore, remained in their native state all their lives. His father was a wagon builder by trade. The religion of his parents was that of the Hicksite Quakers. Mr. J. H. Longshore's early educational training was such as the common schools of his time could furnish. When a boy he learned his trade with his father. In 1849 he was married to Sally Hadley, of Clinton county, Ohio, whose birth dates to 1842. She is the daughter of William and Susanna Hadley, both of whom are natives of Virginia. They came to Ohio quite early, where they both departed this life, the former at the age of fifty years, the latter at eighty-seven years. Both were members of the orthodox Friend's church. By this marriage Mr. Longshore has four children: Alvin E., now in California, Emma B., Carrie, and Howard. In politics his principles are those advocated by the republican party. He was one of those men who came to Millersburg in the zenith of its prospects of prosperity and yet remains, having secured a good run of trade in his line.

D. A. DAVISON was born in 1833, in the State of Pennsylvania. His parents were Moses and Elizabeth Davison, both of Pennsylvania. They emigrated to Wells county, in 1843. There they died, the former in 1880, aged seventy-seven years; the latter in 1864, aged fifty-seven years. The former was a farmer, miller and millwright. D. A. came from Pennsylvania to Mercer county in 1859, and located in New Boston township, where he remained two years, then moved to Keithsburg two years. In 1866 he located in Millersburg township, where he now resides, near the south line. He was married in 1860 to Evaline Wolfe, a native of Indiana, born in 1842, and daughter of Solomon and Evaline (Marlatt) Wolfe. They came to Illinois in 1846. They are both natives of Indiana, and are now citizens of Abington township, Mercer county, and members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Davison has by this marriage twelve children: Ida (deceased), May, Cora, Ralph, Walter, Edward (deceased), Albert, Clarence, Morgan, Grace, Rose, and Maud. Mr. Davison enlisted in 1862 in the late war, in company G, 124th Ill. Vol. Inf., served three years, and was

in the following engagements: Fort Gibson, Brownsville, Jackson, Champion Hills, Black river, siege of Vicksburg, numerous skirmishes, and at Spanish Fort. He lives on a fine farm of 320 acres.

W. W. EGBERT is a native of Stark county, Illinois. His parents, James C. and Catharine (Swank) Egbert, the former a native of New Jersey, the latter of Pennsylvania, came with the early settlers to Stark county, where our subject was born in 1854. There his father departed this life in 1863, aged thirty-six years. W. W. Egbert received a fair common school education and five terms at Hedding college. He first began business for himself as druggist in partnership with Dr. D. J. Perry at West Jersey, Illinois. In 1876 he brought a stock of drugs to Millersburg and opened a store. In 1878 he engaged in general merchandise in which business he is at present. He has a good trade. In 1878 his store was burned; loss \$2,000, \$1,000 of which was paid by the insurance company. He was married in 1877 to Miss Margaret M. Green, native of Illinois, daughter of W. L. and Rebecca E. Green, both of Pennsylvania, and came to Mercer county in 1854. The former was by trade a carver and gilder. He held the office of justice of the peace for several years, was in the mercantile business with H. W. Thornton, and was for a time postmaster at Millersburg. He enlisted in the army in 1861 in the 45th Ill. Vol. Inf., in company I, as second lieutenant. He was in the battle of Shiloh, and died of wounds in 1862, while in the service. He was a member of the I.O.O.F. His widow now receives a pension and resides in Millersburg. She was at one time postmistress at Millersburg for about fifteen years. W. W. Egbert has by this marriage two children: William C. and Frederick W. He is a member of the I.O.O.F. lodge at Millersburg. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Among the well-to-do citizens and farmers of Millersburg township is JOHN RUBERT, born in New York in 1838, and son of John and Magdalena (Chat) Rubert, the former a native of France, the latter of New York, and of German descent. John Jr.'s father died when he was an infant; his mother died when he was fourteen years old, aged thirty-seven years. She came to Chicago in 1843, where she resided for a time, when she removed to Peoria county. John's parents were members of the Christian church. Mr. Rubert's early education was limited. He came to Mercer county in 1858 and located near New Windsor, where he remained till 1861, when he enlisted in the army in August of that year, in company A, 30th Ill. Vol. Inf., and served till December, 1862. He was in the battle of Belmont and bombardment of Fort Henry. At Fort Donelson he was taken prisoner, and



taken first to Memphis where he remained six weeks, then to Mobile, then to Tuscaloosa, from whence he was sent to parole camp at St. Louis, and discharged December, 1862. He returned home and located in Millersburg township in 1863, where he now resides. In 1863 he was married to Miss R. J. Hughes, of Pennsylvania, born in 1842, and daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Hughes, the former of Pennsylvania, the latter of Ohio. They came to Mercer county in 1857 and located in Millersburg township; where both now reside. He is a wagon maker by trade and carries on a shop in the village of Joy. Both are members of the Seventh Day Advent church at Marsh school-house. John Rubert has by this marriage three children: Bertha E. (deceased), Joseph B., John C., and Jennie E. He and wife are members of the Seventh Day Advent church. He owns a well-improved farm of eighty acres, fairly stocked with a good grade of stock.

One of the early families yet resident in Millersburg township is the Dool family. Of that family now resident of this township is JOHN DOOL. His father, Robert Dool, was a native of Ireland (Antrim county), and came to America in 1819, landing in Pennsylvania, where he remained two years when he moved to Ohio, and died in 1829, aged forty-two years, leaving a wife and eight children to mourn his loss. His wife, Margaret (Spears) Dool, was a native of Ireland; her parents were John and Mary (Hannah) Spears, who came to America in 1824 and settled in Ohio, where they both died. Robert Dool's children were named as follows: William S., Henry and Hannah (twins), Rosanna, Margaret, Mary, John, Thomas. Robert Dool and wife were farmers both in Ireland and America, and were members of the Presbyterian church. His wife, who still survives, lives with her daughter on the farm of her son John, and is now eighty-eight years old. John Dool was born in 1826 in Harrison county, Ohio, where he remained till 1858, when he came to Mercer county with his mother and her eight children. Here he has since resided. He was married in 1863 to Sarah Haverfield, daughter of James and Mary Haverfield, the former of Ohio, the latter of Ireland. The former died in 1862, aged sixty-two years, while in the service of the 9th Ill. Vol. Inf. The latter died in 1857. They were both members of the United Presbyterian church. By his marriage John Dool has four children: Anna L., James L., William H., and Robert B. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He has a farm of 120 acres of fine farming land, well improved and fairly stocked, and fifteen acres of timber. In politics he is a democrat.

TIMOTHY NOONAN, farmer and stock raiser, is a native of Tipperary

county, Ireland, born in 1837, and came to America with his parents, Daniel and Ellen Noonan, both of Tipperary county, Ireland, in 1859. They first located for a time in Massachusetts; then came to Mercer county. Both were members of the Roman Catholic church. The former died in 1878, aged ninety-five years; the latter, his wife, lives in the village of Millersburg, and is ninety-two years old, hale and hearty for one twenty years her junior. Timothy Noonan learned the trade of his father, which was that of shoemaker. He and his father carried on a shoe shop for a time in the village of Millersburg. In 1859 he made a trip to the Rocky Mountains, and was gone nearly one year, when he returned to Millersburg and opened a shoe shop, but soon left the shop for the farm where he now resides, some three miles west of Aledo. He was married in 1860 to Sarah McGinnis, born in 1839, and daughter of Thomas and Mary McGinnis, both of Ireland. They first located in Pennsylvania; then moved to Keithsburg, Mercer county, when their daughter Sarah was seven years old. The former died in 1863; the latter in 1872. Both were of the Roman Catholic faith. By this marriage Mr. Noonan has six children: Thomas F., William, John L., Eddy H., Mary J., and an infant. He and wife are members of the same church as their parents. He has a fine farm of 240 acres, well improved and well stocked.

P. D. SHINGLEDECKER, Aledo, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1852, son of John and Sarah Shingledecker, both of Pennsylvania. They emigrated to Mercer county in 1852, remained one year, and returned to their native state, where they spent the remainder of their days. The former died in 1858, at the age of fifty-two; the latter in 1872, aged fifty-one years. They were members of the Presbyterian faith. P. D.'s early education was that of the common school. He came to Illinois in 1862, staid five years and returned to Pennsylvania, where he remained seven years, when he came again to Mercer county, where he now resides. He was married in 1872 to Rachel Richards, of Whitesides county, Illinois, born in 1858, daughter of George and Eliza Richards, both of Illinois. The latter died in 1864, and was a member of the Presbyterian church; the former is now living in Colorado. Mr. Shingledecker is a man of steady habits and industrious turn. He keeps a good grade of farm stock, but raises grain to sell rather than to feed.

JOHN BELL, farmer and stock raiser, Aledo, was born in 1805, is a native of Ireland, and came to America in 1841. His parents were Benjamin and Ann Bell, both of whom were Presbyterians. Mr. Bell first landed at Philadelphia, and proceeded to Ohio, where he remained till 1863, when he came and settled in Millersburg township, on the



farm of 360 acres where he now resides. He was married to Margaret Clifford, native of Ireland, and daughter of John and Mary Clifford, of Ireland, both of whom came to America in 1841. They were farmers and members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Bell by this marriage has six children: Mary, John C., Easter, George, Ann, and Jane. His wife is of the Presbyterian faith. In politics he is strictly a democrat. He keeps on his farm a good grade of farm stock. His farm is the result of his own labor, economy and business ability.

ZACHARIAH JEWEL, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Harrison county, Ohio, born in 1824. He was reared on the farm in his native state, where he resided till 1873 when he came to Mercer county where he now resides. During the late war he was a member of the Harrison County Home Guards, and was called out to drive Morgan from the state. He was married in 1847 to Mary Dool, native of Ohio, daughter of Robert and Margaret Dool. By this marriage he has seven children: Margaret A., Nancy E., James W., Rebecca J., Hannah L., Mary O., John W. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church at Peniel. Mr. Jewel's parents were James and Nancy (Spring) Jewel, both of whom came to Harrison county, Ohio, from their native state, Virginia. They were pioneer settlers of Harrison county, and still reside in Ohio. They are farmers and members of the Baptist church.

Dr. JOHN P. CHOWNING, Millersburg, was born January 21, 1843, in the town of Payson, Adams county, Illinois. His parents, Thomas J. and Louisa (Holman) Chowning, were natives of Tennessee, of Scotch descent. They emigrated to Adams county in 1840, and located on a farm near Payson. In 1850 they removed to Adair county, Missouri, but returned to Adams county, after an absence of three years, where they remained till the close of the rebellion. They are at present living in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Chowning was the oldest of nine children, eight of whom are still living. After completing the common school studies he spent two years in the academy of his native town. The rebellion having broken out he enlisted August 7, 1862, in Company E, 84th Ill. Vol., in which he served till the close of the second days' fight at Chickamauga, when he was taken prisoner. He was taken to Richmond, Virginia, and confined in what was known as "Castle Pemberton," for one and one-half months, after which he was removed to Danville, Virginia, where he remained four and one-half months, from thence to Andersonville, Georgia, where for seven months he was subjected to scenes of cruelty and suffering that beggar description. On the night of October 1, 1864, while being transferred from Andersonville to Charleston, South Carolina, he escaped with one

of his fellow prisoners, by jumping from the train while in motion. Reduced by starvation and disease to a mere skeleton, the tendons of his limbs contracted till he was literally compelled to walk on tip toe by the aid of a "walking stick." After a perilous journey of eighteen days, through an enemy's country, subsisting on sweet potatoes and such other edibles as were obtainable, he at last reached the Union lines, then at Atlanta, Georgia. Through the kindness of Gen. Stanley he was at once detailed as a clerk in the division hospital, where he remained till the close of the war. In the fall of 1864 he entered the Iowa Wesleyan University, from which he graduated in 1869, defraying his expenses by teaching during the winter months and working at the carpenter's trade during the summer vacations. In the spring of 1870 he commenced the study of medicine, with Dr. E. L. Marshall, of Keithsburg, Illinois, as preceptor. He continued his medical studies, teaching in the meantime; was principal of the schools in Keithsburg and Barry, Illinois, respectively. During the winter of 1872-3 he attended lectures at Rush medical college. Locating at Millersburg, he practiced two years and six months, when he again attended lectures at Bellevue hospital medical college, New York, from which he received the degree of M.D. Dr. Chowning was married to Florence, daughter of A. B. and Anna Sheriff, in 1871; her father a native of Pennsylvania, her mother of Ohio. By this marriage they have four children: Florence M., William M., Josephine, and Eva. They are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The doctor is a member of the masonic fraternity; is also a member of military tract medical society.

JOHN DOWNING, Aledo, is a native of Belmont county, Ohio, born in 1840, son of John and Ellen Downing; former, native of Pennsylvania, the latter of Ohio. They came to Mercer county in 1864, and located one and a half miles east of where their son John now resides, and where they both died; the former in 1873, at the age of seventy-two; the latter in 1874, at the age of sixty-eight years. They were members of the Presbyterian church, and their remains repose in the cemetery of the Peniel church. John Downing came to Mercer county with his parents. He was married in 1863 to Rachel J. Campbell, native of Belmont county, Ohio, daughter of John and Jane Campbell, both of Ohio, and are now residents of their native state. Mr. Downing has by this union five children: Jane E., Maggie L., Robert L., Birdie S., and John C. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He served in company K, 102d Ill. Vol., was mustered into the service in 1862, served six months, and was discharged because of ill health. He moved upon the farm where he now lives in 1877. His farm con-

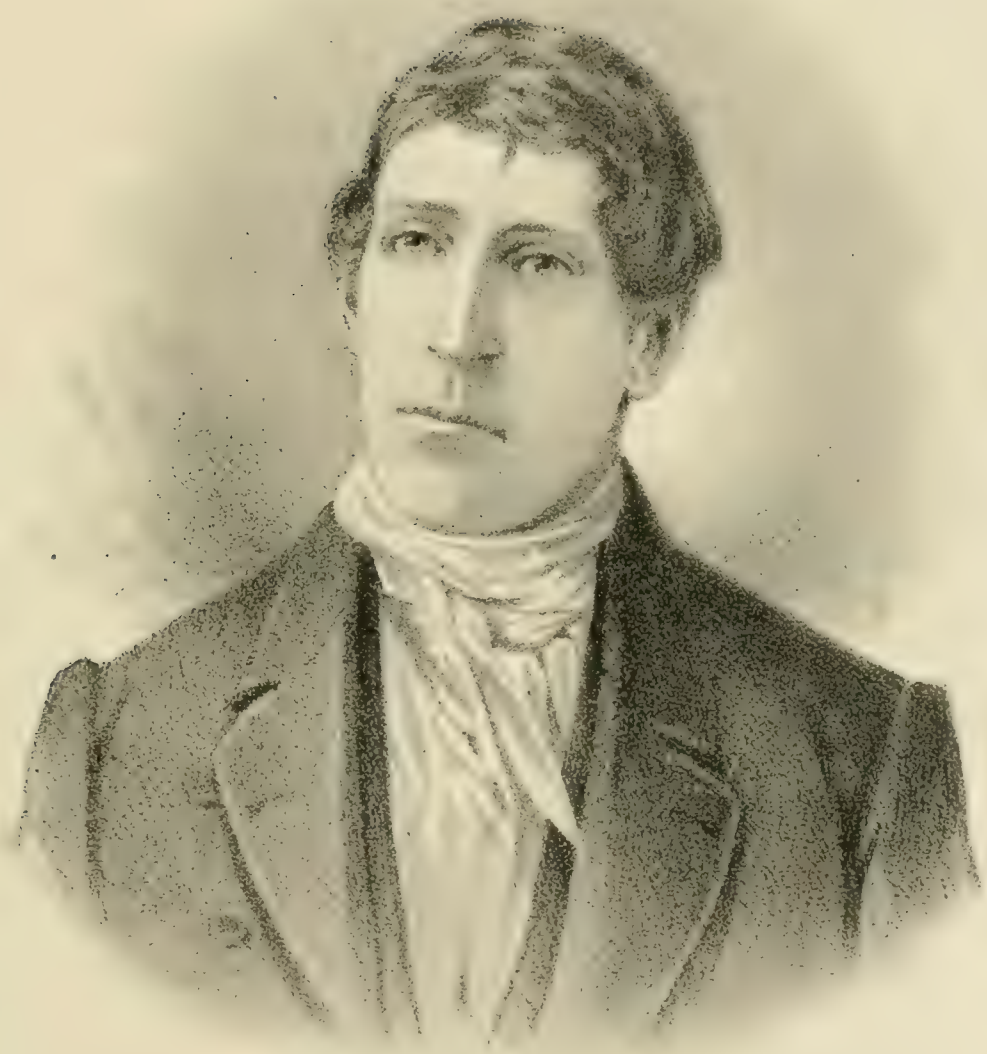


tains 150 acres, which cost \$50 per acre. It is fairly improved and stocked with a good grade of cattle, hogs and horses.

W. R. LEMON, Aledo, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1837, son of John and Eliza Lemon, both of Pennsylvania. They came to Mercer county in 1867, and located in Aledo, where they resided till 1871, when they moved upon a farm, where the latter died in 1874, at the age of fifty-seven years, when the former returned to Aledo, where he now resides. Having sold his farm he now lives a retired life. He and wife were Presbyterians. W. R. was reared on the farm. His educational training was such as he could get in the district school. During the war he was a member of the home guards in his native state, and was ordered out once. He was married in 1868 to Alice Lair, native of Indiana, and came to Mercer when she was a girl with her parents. She died in 1870, at the age of thirty years. He was married a second time to Julia A. Barcroft, of Ohio, daughter of William and Anna Barcroft, both of Ohio. By this last marriage he has three children: Frank, Lena, and Earl. Mr. Lemon has a fine stock farm of 120 acres, lying upon both sides of the railroad, three and a half miles west of Aledo. He keeps a high grade of cattle, sheep, hogs and horses, the latter of the Clidesdale and Norman stock. His sheep are of the Merino breed. He is a member of the Presbyterian church at Aledo.

S. A. OLIVER was born in 1855 in Henry county, Illinois, and is the son of Robert R. and Mary E. Oliver, both of Ohio, now citizens of Henry county. By vocation they are farmers. S. A. was reared and educated to the farm, which pursuit he has always followed. His early educational training was such as the common schools of his neighborhood could furnish. He was married in 1874 to Maggie Lyle, native of Henry county, Illinois, born in 1855, daughter of William and Margaret Lyle, both of Scotland. They came to Henry county with its early settlers. By this marriage Mr. Oliver has two children, twins: Marian and Mary. He came to Mercer county and located in 1879, where he now resides. He has a farm of eighty acres, fairly improved and stocked with a good grade of cattle, sheep, hogs and horses.

G. W. PICKUP, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Iowa, born in 1848, and came with his parents, John and Mary E. Pickup, to Burlington, Iowa. They were natives of England, and emigrated to America in 1838. They both died during the cholera scourge of 1849, the former before G. W. was born. G. W.'s mother was a member of the Episcopal church. In 1861 he enlisted in company D, 7th Ill. Vol., ninety days' men, then re-enlisted in company G, 10th Ill. Vol., and served till July 4, 1865. He was in the siege of New Madrid; then



JOHN GLAUCEY.





went to Memphis; was in the battles of Shiloh and Corinth; with Gen. E. A. Payne, who was sent to reinforce Nashville; in 1863 was placed in Rosecrans' division; was in the battles of Stone river, Chickamauga, and was with Sherman's division in his march to the sea, at Goldsborough, and then went to Richmond, Washington and Louisville, where he was mustered out of the service July 4, 1865. He was married in 1871 to Mary E. Griffith, of Mercer county, born in 1853, and daughter of Charles and Martha Griffith; the former of Indiana, the latter of Ireland. They came with the early settlers to Mercer county, and located in Millersburg township, where the former now resides, his wife having died in 1879, aged sixty-seven years. Mr. Pickup by this marriage has one child, George A. He resides two miles south of Millersburg, on a farm of eighty acres, which is nicely improved and well stocked. In politics he is a republican.

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#### ELIZA TOWNSHIP.

This is No. 15, in range 5, of the fourth principal meridian. Rock Island county bounds it on the north, and the Mississippi river on the west. A chain of irregular and abrupt bluffs extends from north to south, through the center of the township, from the south line of section 32 to the northern boundary line between Eliza township and Rock Island county, at the northwest corner of section 6. Three creeks run in a southwesterly direction through the town, the principal one of which is Eliza creek, whose source is in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 12, of Duncan township. Fed by small tributaries on both sides, it runs southwest through that township, crossing the eastern boundary line between the two townships in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 24; runs southwest to the center of section 23; thence northwest to the north section line between sections 15 and 22; thence southwest, crossing the west section line between sections 21 and 22, through sections 21, 29, 30, 25, and 36, and emptying into the head of lower Eliza lake. Winters creek enters the township in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 25; flows southwest through sections 25 and 35. Glancy branch enters the township at the northern boundary line between Eliza township and Rock Island county, in section 5, and runs southwest through sections 5 and 7. These streams and their tributaries furnish ample supplies of water for stock at all seasons of the year.

In the western part of the township, below the bluffs and between the river, are nestled numerous small lakes and ponds. The most prominent of the lakes are Upper Eliza, Glancy, and Swan, the largest



being Swan, part of which extends south into New Boston township; this lake is two and a half miles long and a half mile wide, and, like all the rest, the water in this lake is clear and from four to five feet in depth. Upper Eliza is one mile long and a quarter mile wide, and from three to eight feet deep. Glancy extends north into Rock Island county, and is about two miles long, one-eighth mile in width, and from five to twenty feet in depth. These lakes and their tributaries are mostly skirted with timber and a species of willow commonly called buck brush. The timber consists of the various oaks, hickory, maple, sycamore, hockberry, buckeye, wild honey-locust, ash, walnut, and pecan, of which a fine young growth is now growing. Grape and other wild climbers also abound along the banks of creeks and lakes. These lakes and tributaries abound in game and fish of fine flavor, and the business of fishing is carried on to some extent by parties who lease the grounds for that purpose. Wild ducks and geese are also plentiful in seasons when they migrate from north to south, and vice versa.

The soil of Eliza township is admirably adapted to agricultural purposes. The land lying on the southeast side of Eliza creek is mostly prairie, and is composed of rich black loam, with yellow and brown clay subsoil in places, which produces heavy crops of corn and other agricultural staples. The land lying north of the creek is undulating, and, near the bluff, quite hilly; is mostly covered with timber, and is used for pasture, for which it supplies a fine growth of blue grass.

The land on the bluff and in the vicinity of the river seems to have been the favorite abode of the ancient mound builders, of which race of people we know but little at the present day. All along below and on the summit of these bluffs can be seen these mounds, the most noted of which are on sections 28 and 29, north of Jay Wilson's farm, Martin Bear place, on section 16, now occupied by Edwin Bishop's house, and on the east part of sections 19 and 30, the most prominent of which are on sections 19 and 30. All through the timber on these lands can be seen what appears to have been at one time a line of earth-works, thrown up for a defense, inside of which are hundreds of these mounds. Some of them measure forty feet at the base, and on top large oak trees, four feet in diameter, have grown. Many of these mounds have been opened by scientific men and curiosity seekers. In some of them have been found specimens of several grades of pottery, from the common clay to some artistically decorated and apparently glazed. Some curiously shaped pipes and axes have also been found, among which was a double edged one, having a round hole in the

center for an eye. The most important thing found in these mounds was a skeleton measuring nine feet in length. The bones taken from the mounds are all well preserved.

All that portion of land extending westward and nearest the river is of the finest quality, but owing to the exposure to overflow and the damp nature of the soil in seasons for planting, is not farmed. It is covered with a heavy growth of tall coarse grass which makes fine pasture for cattle, hundreds of which are grazed upon it annually and hundreds of tons of hay are made and stacked for winter use. The land nearer the bluff is of the finest grade, the soil being from five to ten feet deep, and susceptible of the highest state of cultivation, and in favorable seasons unaccompanied by overflow, has produced more corn per acre than any other land in the country; but in seasons of extreme rainy weather in the northern states, it is subject to overflow, as was too truly the experience in that locality in the spring and fall of 1881. After the farmers had planted their corn and it had grown a foot or more the land began to overflow, and in the course of a few days crops were completely submerged in a vast sea of water extending from the bluff to the Mississippi. Crops of all kinds were completely destroyed. Many cattle, horses and hogs were drowned and those only were saved that could be brought out on flat-boats. The sudden and unexpected appearance of this flood was without a parallel to the oldest inhabitants. The water reached a height equal to that of 1851, soon subsided and disappeared. The inhabitants were at first discouraged at the prospect for a crop that season, but they went to work replanting their corn hoping to be favored by a long season to mature the second crop; the second planting germinated and grew and soon looked better than the first. The season of 1881 being unfavorable for corn throughout the state, proved the best in this locality on account of the peculiar adaptability of the soil. The crop raised that season was the best in the county, but when harvest time came and the farmers were about to realize the results of their labor, with corn at sixty cents per bushel, a repetition of what had taken place in the spring ensued ruining the crops and sweeping away horses, cattle, hay and fences. No portion of land could be seen anywhere. Unlike the previous overflow in the spring, the water was slow to pass off and covered the land for two months, during which time, drawn there by the excellent feeding, the wild ducks swarmed in by the thousands, completely stripping the corn that was standing out in the water. Sportsmen came from all parts of the state, the reports of whose guns sounded to the old soldier like a distant skirmish line. It has been estimated that during that season forty thousand ducks were killed and shipped from that place to the large cities.



## FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

The first early settlers of Eliza, with but few exceptions, came from Indiana and, in most instances, brought their families with them, making the journey through the open prairie and enduring all the hardships incident to the times. There being at that time a few trading places at New Boston, that point was mostly aimed for on account of the freight and commercial advantages it then afforded. Another attraction was the timber along the bluff. The majority of these people having been raised in and adjacent to timber in the former state, looked upon farming without the use of timber as impracticable, and without which they were unable to construct their rude log cabins and fence their farms.

J. H. Witter was the first settler in Eliza township. He came from Indiana to Eliza in the spring of 1833 and settled on Witter's creek, then named for him, but afterward changed to Winter, who was the next man to settle near the same place. Witter did not stay long in Eliza, but sold out and moved to Iowa.

In the fall of that year David Shaunce and family, accompanied by his son, John Shaunce, arrived. They entered the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, but by mistake settled on a quarter of land in the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, soon after which William Wilson and John Hill came. Wilson was from Indiana and Hill from Kentucky. Hill took a claim and built the best house then in the township, on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, which land by right belonged to Shaunce. As soon as the mistake was discovered a difficulty between the parties ensued, causing a bitter enmity in both men. After considerable quarreling over the disputed land, Shaunce sold it to Mr. D. F. Noble on condition that he (Shaunce) should take possession of the place. Shaunce first tried to get Hill off the place by legal process, but failing in that he then undertook it by force, which was the cause of some heavy fist battles in the neighborhood. Hill, however, relinquished his right to the property by moving off the premises, of which Noble took possession. Hill then bought a piece of land on section 31, where he lived for a short time, and sold out to Samuel Elliott and moved to Iowa. Shaunce's name is familiarly remembered by all the old settlers of the present time. His house was the radiating point. A traveler inquiring the way to a place was invariably told that the place inquired for was so far to or from Shaunce's. Shaunce was one of the first grand jurors chosen in the county, and also one of the first parties in a law suit.

In the spring of 1834 Silas Drury and father, accompanied by a cousin, Charles Drury, and J. P. Reynolds, arrived. Silas Drury

entered a piece of land, where he built a cabin and lived until he sold out to Daniel Noble, when he moved to Rock Island county, town of Drury, which bears his name. He then built a large mill on Copperas creek, familiarly known to all the old settlers as Drury's mill. Mr. Drury's father, Charles Drury, and J. P. Reynolds did not remain long in Illinois, but took passage on board a steamboat at New Boston on their way back to Indiana by way of Cincinnati. Reynolds returning the same season lived with Dr. Reynolds until the following spring of 1835, when he was married to Miss Hettie Elliott, formerly from Morgan county, Indiana. This was the first marriage in the township, which event is distinctly remembered from the circumstance that followed. Reynolds died in just four weeks after the wedding day, and was buried in Eliza cemetery. Charles Drury, returning in the fall of 1835, was also married to Miss Nancy Prentice, who died eleven months after. He then moved to Rock Island county and studied medicine with Dr. Reynolds, after which he married Mrs. Eliza McGreer, moved back and practiced medicine throughout the township, living upon what is known as the E. W. Mardock farm. He quit the practice of medicine in 1851 and moved to Oregon.

In the fall of 1834 Jesse Willits and family, also from Indiana, settled on section 32, the place now owned by Frank Willits. Willits was the first probate judge, and one of the first justices of the peace; also one of the first grand jurors chosen in 1835. He lived on the place where he first settled until the time of his death in 1843. Dr. Mark Willits settled on the same piece of land with Jesse Willits, on section 32, which he sold after living upon the place one year. Dr. Mark Willits was also one of the first grand jurors chosen from the township that year. Dr. Willits was a native of Indiana. Mark Mullen and family arrived late in the fall of that year and settled on section 7, where he built a cabin and small blacksmith shop, near the bluff, which is still standing. Mullen was the first blacksmith in the township, and it is presumed he was not troubled much with competition, as the nearest shop to him was at North Henderson, some thirty miles distant. Mullen lived but a short time on the place where he settled, and selling his place to Samuel Elliott he moved to Iowa. Isaac Dawson and William Jackson came next. Dawson settled on land now the August Schrader place, which he sold to Martin A. Cook in 1851, and moved to Iowa. Both men were from Montgomery county, Indiana. Jackson settled on Pope creek, near Keithsburg. Lewis Noble and family settled on section 32, where he built a house and improved a farm, which he afterward sold, and moved to Decatur county, Iowa.



The glowing accounts of the then far west sent back by those who had settled here, induced others to follow them, and the next one coming in the spring of 1835 was John Drury and family. They settled on section 35, now known as the A. B. Childs place, on which he lived until the time of his death. Aaron Mannon then bought a piece of land on section 29, which is now owned by Harvey Mills. After Mannon bought the land he returned to Indiana for his family, leaving his son, who had come with him, in charge of the place. During his father's absence he built a house on section 30, which land he had entered soon after his first arrival with his father. His father returning in the following May, settled on section 30, land now owned by W. H. Mills. Abijah Wilson and Allen Wilson came in the summer of 1835; they took up land on section 33, which they afterward sold. Robert Childers settled on section 16, where he built a cabin, lived a short time, sold out and moved to Iowa. John and William Fisher came in the fall and settled on section 18, the Joseph Bush place. John also bought land in section 23. William settled on the Ira Noble place, at the foot of the bluff. Jesse L. Adams settled on section 19, from which place he moved to section 22, where he now resides. Rezin Pratt came from Indiana to Mercer county in 1836. He first bought in section 30, and subsequently bought land adjoining. He then returned to Indiana the same season for his family. Pratt was the first postmaster in the township and had his office in the house in which he lived. He was also the first justice of the peace.

Daniel Noble and family, accompanied by his son, D. F. Noble, and wife, came soon after Pratt. They rented land the first season of Jessie Willits, and the same year Daniel Noble bought some land from Silas Drury, and at the same time entered on sections 30, 18 and 19. He built a house on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 30 the same year. D. F. Noble first entered land in sections 31 and 20, which he afterward sold; he also bought eighty acres in section 29 at the same time, as did David Shaunce, where he first settled. He afterward bought land in section 30, near the bluff, upon which there was a small house, in which he lived until 1881, at which time he built a fine new frame, near the site of the old one. Thomas Morgan, of Montgomery county, Indiana, settled with his family on section 22, on which place he died in 1850. The place is now owned by Martin Bear, and occupied by his son Madrew. The first log cabin built upon the place is still standing in a good state of preservation. Morgan was buried in Eliza cemetery. Samuel Elliott bought the Mark Mullen place in 1836, in section 7. George Moore came in the spring and settled on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 30, which he sold in the spring to his brother John Moore, who came

during the previous winter. Moore started early in the winter to make the journey by boat, accompanied by his wife and a small child. When boarding the boat at Cincinnati he fell through a hatchway and was severely injured. On arriving at Fort Madison they found that they could not proceed farther by boat, owing to the river being frozen over at that point. They left the river at that place and began the balance of the journey on foot, through a wilderness of prairie grass and howling wolves. The sufferings they endured on account of cold and hunger was intense, but after several days painful travel, tired and foot sore they finally arrived at the house of Joseph Glancey, where they stayed during the winter, and in the spring settled in Eliza on land bought of his brother George. John Moore seems to have been exceedingly unlucky, for in the spring of 1839, while in the timber splitting rails, a tree fell upon him crippling him for life. But notwithstanding all the sufferings he had previously endured, he went to work and built a saw-mill on Eliza creek, the first of the kind in the township. Martin and Jacob Bear came next. They started from Indiana about April 16, in company with John Thompson, and Abraham Piatt. Thompson and Piatt were from Ohio, and settled in Walnut Grove, in Knox county, Illinois. The Bears' outfit consisted of four yoke of oxen hitched to an old fashioned Virginia road wagon, heavily loaded, in consequence of which the journey was a slow and tedious one. Often the drivers had to unhitch their teams and carry their loads out of a slough on their backs, and often this interesting performance was repeated several times during each days' journey. Many times they would hitch all the oxen to one wagon to pull it through a slough, and when that failed then the interesting process of wading through the mud was resorted to. Mr. Jacob Bear's experience on the occasion as related by him must have been an exceedingly interesting one to him. Among the party there was a small child who was very fond of him, and when not in his company would continually cry for him, and as Mr. Bear's part of the programme was to drive the cattle, he was forced to strap the child to his back, in which manner they made the trip to Illinois together. The party arrived in Mercer county on the evening of May 10, 1836, having been twenty-four days on the road. Arriving at a point two miles below Pope creek, they went into camp for the night, on top of a high bluff. They turned their cattle out to graze, built a fire and began preparations for supper. A heavy storm that had been threatening for a few hours before suddenly broke with great violence upon the party, putting out their fires and carrying away their tents, leaving them to sit all night in a drenching rain. As soon as daylight came, they moved forward to



Mrs. William Willits', where a breakfast was prepared for them, after which they continued their journey, reaching the place where they settled and still own. George and Isaac Dawson, learning of their arrival in the neighborhood, concluded to frighten them, and accordingly prepared their toilets in true Indian style, painted their faces with blood root, and, to give them a more hideous look, they bedaubed their hair with yellow clay, in which style they suddenly rushed upon the emigrant party. It is hardly necessary to add that the scheme had the desired effect upon the party. Martin Bear bought his land of Thomas Morgan, on section 22, upon which he lived until a few years since when he moved to Aledo. Jacob Bear still lives where he first settled, and has at different times since bought other lands adjoining. For the first few years after coming to the country, he lived with his brother Martin. He first broke ten acres the first season, and built a cabin near the site of which he has since built a large frame house. John Glancy settled in Eliza in 1837. He still lives where he first settled, on section 7. He bought the land of Samuel Elliott, and from time to time bought lands adjoining it, and now owns one of the largest farms in the county.

The Indians were plentiful here in the days of the first early settlers. They were peaceful, however, and disposed to trade honorably with the whites. They belonged mostly to Black Hawk's tribe. Black Hawk himself was a frequent visitor to Mr. Silas Drury's cabin, where he was accustomed to stop to enjoy a night's rest on his cabin floor. Among Black Hawk's tribe was one familiarly known to the old settlers as Slim Jim, who was noted for his cunning, and of whom many good stories are still told by the surviving settlers. Jim lived in the bottoms below the bluff, but was quite fond of lounging about the settlers' cabins, and especially at Mark Mullen's. One day Jim came up out of the bottom and reported to Mullen that he had found a bee tree in the timber below, which, after considerable bartering, he succeeded in buying Jim's right in the tree for one dollar in silver. Then Mullen and Jim started to hunt for the tree, which they found as Jim had stated. Mullen then set to work chopping the tree, which was a large one. Mr. D. F. Noble and John Pratt, being in the neighborhood, on hearing the noise went to where the parties were at work, and offered their assistance for a part of the honey. Thus reinforced the tree soon began to fall, and on its downward course fell against another near by, breaking off a large limb, from the opening of which there fell out upon the snow a comb of honey, about the size of Jim's fist, which he quickly picked up and ate. Upon further examination it was soon found that Jim had got all the honey the tree contained, besides a good

joke on the parties present and a dollar in silver. Mullen concluded to keep cool about the matter and revenge himself in some other way. He used to keep liquor for sale at his cabin, an article that Jim had a peculiar liking for. One day, not long after the bee-tree transaction, Jim's thirst for fire water became so great as to force him to pawn a fine new blanket to him for a quart of the ardent, which, if he failed to redeem in a specified time, was to be the property of Mullen. When redemption day came around, Jim's cash account being short, he forfeited his right to the blanket. Jim took in the situation at once, but said nothing, and quietly walking away was not seen about the place for many days after, and while the settlers were feeling alarmed lest some evil had befallen him he one day suddenly made his appearance, with a large powder horn filled with lead ore, which he took into Mullen's cabin and began to mold bullets from. This excited Mullen's curiosity greatly to know where Jim had found the ore. Upon inquiry Jim pointed across the river, and by signs and gestures conveyed the impression that the place was quite a distance away. Mullen began at once to enter into negotiations with Jim to be conducted to the El Dorado. Mullen wished to start immediately for the place, but Jim, pointing to the ground, told Mullen that the place could not be reached in the winter season, but that they must wait until the grass grew in the spring, so the oxen could graze. This philosophical statement satisfied Mullen, and he took Jim and his squaw in the cabin with him, where they both enjoyed Mullen's hospitalities during the winter, but when spring came, and they were nearly ready to start for the promised land, Jim suddenly disappeared, and was not seen again for many years.

#### MILLS.

The first mill built in the township was by Rezin Pratt and John H. Mannon, about 1837. It was situated just above Daniel Noble's, and was built about 1844, or 1845. This was a grist mill, and disappeared years ago. No other mill has since taken its place, owing to an insufficient body of water of late years to run one. A saw mill, built by Rezin Pratt and E. Esley, stood on the same stream, a little below Mr. Noble's, and was built somewhat later; no remains of it can be seen there now. The mill was a large one and was well patronized at the time. For a long time after this mill ceased running there was no other mill in the township, until about 1864, when a steam saw mill was erected by Jesse Bogart, which, for the want of patronage, did not do much business. A steam grist mill for grinding feed was started on section 16 by J. C. Achison. Before the establishment of the first



mill in the township, the inhabitants, having then to go as far as North Henderson and Monmouth, one man would generally do the business for several of his neighbors; he was usually detained from six to ten days, according to the stage of water and the number of persons ahead awaiting their turn. They usually started with a supply of rations and feed for an emergency. The teams quartered about these mills gave the place the appearance of a camp-meeting ground.

The only town of importance in the township was started by Edwin Bishop, who settled there in 1850. Being a blacksmith by trade, he there started a shop on the corners, and the place was then called Bishop's Corners until Mr. Bishop's appointment as postmaster; the office having formerly been called Eliza, that name was substituted. The place is located near the center of section 16. On or about the year 1876 Dr. Thomas L. Edwards bought a house and moved to the place, where he followed his profession until a few years since, when he retired from practice on account of advanced age, and was succeeded by Dr. Reynolds, who is the only physician in the place. Harrison, son of Edward Bishop, built a large house in the place a few years ago, on the opposite corner from his father's, where he resides and follows the carpenter trade. The next, a building sixteen feet square, was built for a store by Isaiah Bishop in 1876, which was stocked and opened up for the first time on the morning of the annual town meeting of that year. His stock consisted of a barrel of kerosene and a few other light goods which he had carried on his back from Muscatine the day before. Not having a large stock, his business at first was slow and perplexing; some of his customers greatly annoyed him by calling for such goods as they knew he did not have on hand. After a careful survey of his stock, one of his customers remarked that his was the only store he ever saw which he felt able to buy out. Remembering the old adage, that from small acorns large trees grow, he continued in business, and by careful watching of the wants of his customers, has built up a large trade, and added an addition to his store-room, which is now well stocked with such merchandise as is usually needed by farmers. Before the establishment of this store, the trade of the township was divided between New Boston and Muscatine, Iowa. The place also contains a jeweler shop and the business is carried on by Mr. Taylor.

Soon after the organization of, and at the September term of the board of supervisors of 1854, an order was made by that body authorizing the issuing of a bond of \$100,000 to the capital stock of the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad Company, to be paid in county bonds to run twenty years with interest at six per cent, providing that the bonds

should not be issued until a sufficient amount of available capital stock was subscribed to build the road; and providing that the money from the sale of the bonds should be expended within the limits of the county. In 1855 Mr. Hiram Thornton, agent for said company, filed a petition asking a modification of the terms of the bonds, and asking that the bonds be made unconditional and payable on demand of the company or its agents. The question of rescinding the former action was submitted to the voters of the several townships in the spring of 1856. Eliza township cast eight votes for rescinding the former vote, and twenty-eight against.

#### SPECULATORS.

For a few years after the first settlement here the settlers were greatly annoyed by speculators and land grabbers, in consequence of which they were ever upon the lookout for intruders, who usually appeared in the guise of emigrants seeking homes, therefore all new comers were eyed with suspicion. Upon one occasion three strangers were noticed in the neighborhood whose actions aroused the suspicions of Mr. Silas Drury, then sheriff of the county, as to the real nature of their business. After carefully examining several of the best pieces of land in that vicinity, they came to Drury and requested him to show them such lands as had not already been taken, saying that they were seeking places upon which to settle. Supposing that they were land sharks, he took them up on top of the bluff in a thickly timbered place where left them, knowing that they would get lost. Then returning to his cabin he mounted a swift horse and notified his neighbors of the threatening danger. They all met that night at a cabin at the foot of the bluff to determine the best course to pursue in the matter. Believing the parties to be speculators, they began to realize the importance of quick action, and accordingly concluded to gather all the money in the neighborhood and start Mr. Drury to the land office to buy in their lands for them. Drury left that night in company with a neighbor who was going a part of the way. They took a trail leading through Rock Island county, at which place it was their intention to have staid for the night, at a cabin owned by one Dunlap. On arriving they rode up to the cabin, and looking through a partly open door, saw the same parties whom Mr. Drury had left in the timber but a few hours before. Mr. Drury at once came to the conclusion that the parties were heading for the land office, and determined to get ahead of them if possible. Not wishing to proceed farther that night, the man accompanying Drury rode forward to the cabin and called Mr. Dunlap, who, being in sympathy with the settlers, was confidentially told their business. A



cabin a short distance away was pointed out to them, where they were assured they could find quarters. Drury started from that place early the next morning, and reaching Andalusia just at sun up in the morning, was directed to cross the river at that point and take a trail made the day before, from Rock Island down the river by drawing a log through the snow, to allow the Indians to go there to trade. Arriving at Rock Island about noon, he stopped at a tavern kept by a man named Dixon, who was county clerk of the county. He was instructed by him as to the route to take, and also informed him that he should stop at Port Byron for the night, which if he passed he would not find another stopping place within forty miles. Soon after leaving Rock Island Mr. Drury looked back and saw a man on horseback, apparently in pursuit, which he supposed to be the speculator. On arriving at Port Byron the man overtook him and remarked that Drury must have a fine horse as he had tried all the afternoon but had failed to overtake him. They left in the morning in company, but had not gone far until Drury noticed that the stranger's horse was a superior animal, which, not agreeing with the statement he had made the day before, caused Drury to fear that the man was following him for the purpose of waylaying him at the first opportunity. After a few hours' ride together he told Drury that he had just come from Eliza township, where the day before he had beaten a citizen doctor in a horse race and taken \$500 from him. Drury also noticed by the actions of the man that he likewise suspected him, and thus the two men rode along together in silence, the one watching the movements of the other. Presently the stranger asked Drury if he had any money about him. He replied that he had \$2.50 and was hurrying to get to Galena to find work, and asked if he was acquainted there. The man said that he was, but that work was scarce. He offered to bet Drury that his money was counterfeit, and demanded an examination, after which he passed it back, and producing some of the same kind from his own pocket, said that he was well acquainted with the parties in Galena who made it. This statement aroused Drury's fears more than ever, and as it was now growing dark both parties watched closer than ever. They however reached Dubuque in safety, and Drury going straight to the land office was there informed that they were three weeks behind with their books and that he would have to await his turn to make the entries. Not satisfied he went back and enlisted the co-operation of a friend and the two succeeded in making the entries that same night. The next morning just as Drury was preparing to start back the speculators made their appearance, and going to the office were told that the lands had all been entered the day before,

at which they broke out in a fit of rage and said the trick had been played by that little sheriff of Mercer county, and if he could be found they would cowhide him within an inch of his life. Instead of being settlers looking for homes, they turned out to be Virginia land agents.

#### ROADS.

The first road laid out in the township was one leading from the bluff to Rezin Pratt's mill, on Eliza creek. This road was located in 1850. In the same year a road was laid out from the bluff to the old Bloomington road, at Bear's. Another road, commencing where the Millersburg and Muscatine road crossed the county line, running west in Mercer county, through H. Mardock's land, intersecting the county line at John Boruff's, then west into Rock Island county, was laid out in 1851. A road leading from George Scott's house in New Boston township to D. F. Noble's, was laid out in 1851.

A portion of an old Indian trail, leading from New Boston to Rock Island, is still visible in the southeastern part of the township.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The first town meeting was held at the house of Daniel Noble April 2, 1854. J. P. Mannon was chosen moderator and Joseph Leonard clerk. The first election resulted in the choice of John Glancy, for supervisor; L. W. Noble, town clerk; James M. Mannon, assessor; William Irvin, M. A. Cook and D. W. Noble, commissioners of highways; H. H. Randolph and G. W. Black, overseers of highways; Dudley Willits, overseer of the poor; and Eli Mills, pound-master. The whole number of votes cast was thirty. At an annual town meeting held at the school-house in district No. 2, twenty-five votes were cast for supervisor; twenty for town clerk; twenty-five for assessor; twenty-three for commissioner of highways; twenty-four for overseer of the poor, and five for pound-master. A vote was taken to decide the question of township organization, which received eight votes in favor, and twenty-three against it.

D. F. Noble has served as supervisor nine years; Martin Bear, six; and A. B. Swisher, eight years. J. H. Nolan, J. Y. Merritt and J. H. Leech have each served one year.

The Nobles at times held nearly all the principal offices in the township. The Bishops have also held numerous offices, notably that of town clerk, which was filled by one or the other for ten consecutive years.



## SOLDIERS.

At the first breaking out of the late civil war, the question as to "my duty to go," was responded to affirmatively by many of Eliza's truest patriots, and from the beginning to the termination of the great struggle, they bravely answered every call for troops; father and son left the farm to offer their lives, if need be, that the nation might be perpetuated. And it was not until the town had almost exhausted her resources that men were hired to fill the quota. Many from Eliza enlisted in Iowa regiments, among whom were P. Whaley, B. R. Whaley, Jasper Reed, David Noble, Monroe Leech, Eli Mills, Pyrrhus Glancy, Isaiah Bishop, E. A. Wood, S. S. Wood, Walter Keneday, John I. Reed, Alexander Irwin, Harrison Bishop, wounded. Those who enlisted in the 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. were: J. G. Merritt (who entered company K as a private and was promoted to captain, and was wounded at Averysborough, North Carolina), Madison Retherford, Jacob A. Reed, Thomas Beverlin, James A. Barlett, William Carr, Ezra Fuller, H. J. Frazier, Josiah Spicher, James R. Wood, Abram Fuller (died of disease February 8, 1862), James Collier (died of disease December 4, 1862), George Barlett (died May 18, 1864, of wounds received at Resaca), Noah Spicher (died of disease October 17, 1863), Otis Albee (discharged on account of wounds), Peter O. Pierce (died May 17, 1864), M. Biverlin, John H. Murfin, Franklin Ferguson, Daniel Knapp, Walter Smithers, Henry Smithers, Harvey J. Fisher (wounded at Averysborough, North Carolina), J. F. Essly (enlisted in company outside of the county), H. C. Esley, W. D. Maladay (who was killed at Stone River), and Van A. Noble (wounded at Chickamauga).

## BURIAL PLACES.

There are several burial places in the township, the most noted of which are Eliza and Leech's. Eliza cemetery is situated just east of Mr. D. F. Noble's house, on top of the bluff, on a beautiful site overlooking the Mississippi. More than a hundred have been buried here. The first person buried in this cemetery was Miss Elizabeth Pratt, who was also the first person to die in the township. Leech's cemetery is located in the northeast part of the township, just south of William Leech's house, and contains some fifty graves. There is also a burial place on the old Miller farm, and one at John Glancy's.

The first child born in the township was Mrs. John Shaunce.

## TIMBER.

At the time of the first settlement of the township, old timber, such as the various oaks and hickory, ash and elm, was found in abundance on the upper lands along the edge and on top of the bluffs and in the

bottoms near the lakes, but young timber could not be found, having been destroyed by prairie fires started by the Indians to drive out the deer and other game to points where they could the more easily capture them. Noticing the destruction of the young timber by these fires, many of the settlers began plowing around the edges of the timber to protect it, which had the desired effect, and in a few years young saplings sprang up, and where once only large trees could be seen the ground is now thickly dotted with a fine new growth of oaks and hickory large enough to convert into rails. Many of the large oaks now standing were here when the early settlers first came. On the land of Harrison Bishop, a large white oak is standing, as straight as an arrow, three feet through at the base, and sixty feet to the first limb. Another, the largest tree in the county, is standing in the doorway of J. Y. Merritt. It is an elm measuring  $37\frac{1}{2}$  feet in circumference at the ground, and 34 feet three feet from the ground. It is 108 feet high and has a spread of top of 104 feet. Much notice has been taken of this tree by the press throughout the country, and having several times been measured by competent surveyors is pronounced the largest in the county. It is said that Black Hawk used to hold council under the shade of its branches.

#### LAKES.

In the bottom lands west of the bluff and near the Mississippi river is nestled numerous small lakes, all linked together by a chain of tributaries extending from one to another from north to south, the currents in these outlets being strong in places. The lakes are all fed by the under drainage of the river and from numerous springs along the summit of the bluffs, in consequence of which the water is fresh and clear. In many places the lakes are shaded by large trees, and the sun's silvery rays shining through the tree-tops on the face of the water gives it a picturesque beauty. Fish and wild game are plentiful, and the angler and hunter find enough to occupy them pleasantly for a short stay. Late in the summer season these lakes become thickly matted along the edges with a tall green moss growing from the bottom to the surface of the water. At the time of the first settlement here, these lakes, with the exception of Glancy lake, were much wider and deeper than at the present time, owing to the accumulation of decayed vegetation and continual washing from the bluff. Glancy, however, still maintains its usual depth, owing to a swift current passing through it from the river in seasons of high water. At the present time the depth of Glancy lake is from twenty to twenty-five feet in places; Eliza, three to five; Swan, four to six. All along these lakes was the favorite hunting ground of the Indians.



## SCHOOLS.

The first school-house in the township was built on top of the bluff, a short distance from where D. F. Noble now lives. The house was built of logs, and the first school taught in it was presided over by Miss Mary Ann Delabar, and afterward by Miss Emily Cawkins. The school was kept up for many years by subscription, until the legislature passed a law authorizing such townships as desired to levy a tax for the maintenance of schools, soon after which a meeting was called to discuss the merits and demerits of changing to that system. It being determined at that meeting to accept the provisions of that act, the schools have thus been kept up ever since. Before the change was made the township had but one district, which was composed of what is known now as districts 1, 2, and 3, since which the town has been divided into six school districts, as follows: Center, No. 1; Boruff, No. 2; Glancy, No. 3; White Eagle, No. 4; Eliza Creek, No. 5; Winter Creek, No. 6. The following, as shown by Mr. A. B. Swisher, present school treasurer, are the amounts received and disbursed by him for school purposes for the year 1880:

Amount levied for 1881.....	\$1,600 00
State funds received.....	364 62
Interest received from town fund.....	161 65
	<hr/>
	\$2,126 27

## RELIGIOUS MEETINGS.

Many of the early settlers here were church members, and religious meetings date from 1836. At the request of Mr. Daniel Noble, the first was held at his son's (D. F. Noble) house which, at the time, was the largest house in the neighborhood; and afterward at David Shaunce's and other places in the township, until the first log cabin was built on the bluff, which was then used for all meetings, public and religious. The Methodists were the most numerous at that time, but the meetings were of a union character, and were participated in by members of all other religious sects. The Methodists afterward became a regular organized body here, which has since been broken up owing to many of its members having joined churches located elsewhere outside of the township. They, however, as well as the Baptists and Christians, still continue to hold meetings at the several school-houses in various parts of the town. Neither denomination being strong enough to support a regular minister, the services are conducted by transient preachers. Asa McMerter and Samuel Pinkly were the first preachers, who were at that time termed exhorters. Soon after the first log cabin on the bluff was built, a regular



MARTIN BEAR .





camp-meeting ground was established near the site of it, where the people of the whole neighborhood congregated to worship and talk to familiar friends and acquaintances.

In 1842 a kiln of brick was burned in the township, on the premises of Samuel Strauss, from which several houses in the neighborhood were built the same season.

Eliza township has never yet sent a man to state prison for crime.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

MARTIN BEAR, a retired farmer, now residing in Aledo, was born in Northumberland county, Catawissa township, Pennsylvania, April 6, 1808, and moved with his father at an early date, to Pickaway county, Ohio, where he was raised and educated at a common school, and resided till his marriage with Miss Catherine Dodson, September 8, 1831. In the same month they were married they emigrated to Covington, Fountain county, Indiana, and after a residence of four years there they came to Mercer county in 1836, arriving May 10th and settling near Eliza creek, in what is now Eliza township. Jacob Bear, his brother, then a single man, accompanied and settled near him. In 1835 Mr. Bear first came out to look at some land, and traveled pretty much all over northern and central Illinois, and bought a claim from Thomas Morgan. In 1836 he went to Galena and entered the tract, with some other pieces to which he had obtained the choice number. When Mr. Bear came out here in 1835, somewhere about the head of the Edwards river, night overtook him, and the darkness was not relieved by moon or stars. No house could be seen, so without anything to eat, he slipped the reins over his horse's head and sat down in the tall grass to hold his horse while he was grazing. He fell asleep, and in the morning when he awoke found that his horse had gotten away from him. After finding his horse he journeyed on and the following night reached Major Lloyd's at Camp creek a little below Millersburg. That was the only house around. Mr. Bear felt at home here. The major was bragging about the fat of the land, which the good housewife illustrated with a very fat coon for supper, the first Mr. Bear had ever tasted. In early times Mr. Bear used to go to Spoon river to get his milling done, and to Knoxville to get his plows sharpened and general smithing done. When Mr. Bear first came here he found the following persons living in the neighborhood: Isaac Dawson, Esq., John Drury, Daniel Noble, D. F. Noble, Aaron Mannon, Elisha Essley, John Shaunce, Isaac Drury, William Fisher, Jesse L. Adams, all from Indiana; David Shaunce, from Carolina; Abijah Wilson, from Connecticut; John Shaunce and Thomas Morgan, from Ohio;



Martin Fisher (father of William Fisher), Jacob Bear and John Pratt, all from Indiana, in 1836. Thomas Miller came about 1837; William Retherford, in 1840; James Larue, about 1842; J. J. Huston arrived about 1847; Edwin Bishop, in 1850; William Irvin, about 1849. A. B. Chilas, still residing in the township, settled here June, 1838, at which time there were residing in the northern part of the township, John Glancey, William and John Fisher, Valentine Boruff (and his sons, Felty and John), Miles Boyd, and Martin Bear. In the northern part of the township was Daniel Strauss, who fell from a tree while gathering hickory-nuts, and was partly devoured by hogs before found. John Shaunce lived near Boruff's. Mr. Chilas was a blacksmith, and worked at his trade there; was a smith in New Boston; he sharpened plows and shod horses for twenty miles around.

FRANCIS LAMBERT was born in the southern part of Ireland, in 1816, and moved to America with his father's family in 1840, landing first at St. Johns, New Brunswick, where he resided for two years, and then went to New York, in which city he resided for ten years. Being of a roving disposition, he next went to Pennsylvania, where he staid one year; then went to Tazewell county, Illinois, where after a short stay he started back to New York, but changed his mind when arriving at St. Louis, and started north for Galena, at which place he resided ten months. He then came to Rock Island, and from there to Buffalo, Iowa, and from there to Eliza, settling on section 10, where he made a farm and now resides. He was married in Iowa in 1844 to Miss Nancy Moore, who was a native of Ohio. Mr. Lambert was educated in this country, and has followed farming as an occupation. He began life poor, but by industry and close attention to business has attained an easier position in life. In politics Mr. Lambert is a democrat.

GEORGE MOORE, of New Boston township, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, October 5, 1807. He moved with his parents while young, from that state to Wayne county, Indiana, in 1814, where he was educated at a common school and afterward worked at the carpenter and wheelwright trades until his marriage, when he moved to Mercer county, settling in Eliza, near where D. F. Noble now lives. Since his residence in the county he has followed farming. In April, 1852, Mr. Moore crossed the plains to Oregon, and was five months making the journey, in company with other parties. They stopped first at Yam Hill county, Oregon, and went from there to the southern part, where they stayed until February 20, then went back to Yam Hill county, where they stayed until October 7, and then started for home. Leaving Port Louis, Oregon, on board a steamer they went by way of San Francisco and the Isthmus of Darien to New York, then

up the Hudson to Buffalo, and from thence to Chicago, reaching home December 8, 1853. George Moore's great-grandfather was born on December 19, 1732. His grandmother was born February 24, 1766. Mrs. George Moore, wife of the subject of this sketch, was born in Ohio September 27, 1813. They have seven children, one of whom, Leslie G., died a soldier, at St. Louis, January 14, 1862. He was a member of the 2d Iowa cavalry. Sarah Jane, Helen L., Araminta E., Cara, Robert C., are living. Ella Clarissa is deceased. In religion Mr. Moore is a Universalist, and in politics a republican.

EDWIN BISHOP was born in New Jersey October 29, 1815, and moved with his parents to this state November 13, 1850. They made the journey through by canal and steamboat up the Mississippi river, landing first at Muscatine, Iowa, where he stayed until December 2, 1850, when he settled in Eliza. He received a common school education in the former state, and learned the blacksmith trade, which he has followed during his residence in Eliza. He was married in Pennsylvania August 31, 1837, to Miss Sallie Meeker, who was born in Crawford county, that state, in 1819. Mr. Bishop's father was an American and his mother Scotch. They left New Jersey in January, 1816, and moved to Pennsylvania. Mr. Bishop has from time to time filled all the various offices in this town, and has served as justice of the peace for twenty-four years, and is at present postmaster. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His family of children consists of Delilah, Isaiah, Harrison, Barbara A., Levi A., and Sarah (deceased).

SILAS DRURY was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1808, and moved with his parents to Wayne county, Indiana, in 1811, and from Wayne county to Morgan county in 1820, where he received a common school education and was brought up to farming. His father was English and his mother Welch. His grandfather was also English, and was born in London (Drury Lane, which bears the name of the family), where he was educated for a lawyer. After this he turned Quaker and moved to America, settling in Baltimore, Maryland, where he followed legal writing as a profession. Silas Drury, the subject of the sketch, came from Indiana to Mercer county in the spring of 1834, just after serving as a soldier in the Black Hawk war, which service he entered in 1832. He first settled in Eliza township, and was the first sheriff elected in the county, April 6, 1836, after which he moved to Rock Island county, Illinois, where he now resides. He has, since his residence in that county, held the office of justice of the peace, assessor, and several minor offices, for twenty-six consecutive years. Mr. Drury is a member of the masonic fraternity, and a



member of the Illinois City Lodge: also a member of the Old Settlers' Association, of Rock Island county. In politics he is a national. His business is farming and trading along the river. He was married in Rock Island county in 1843 to Miss Malinda Bentley, by which marriage they had four children: Silas, Sarah, Oscar, and Byron.

J. Y. MERITT, the subject of this sketch, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, January 5, 1828, and is the third child of a family of eight, all of whom are living except Aaron J., who died a soldier at Bardstown, Kentucky. He was a member of the 36th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. Moses, a merchant, resides in Appanoose county, Iowa. Eliza, wife of A. C. Reynolds, whose husband is a farmer, also resides in that county. Mary, wife of Samuel Spangler, a farmer, resides in Whitesides county, Illinois, near Port Byron. Sarah Free also lives in that county. Mary M. Kirlin lives in Mercer county, Illinois. John, a farmer, lives in Wayne county, Indiana. J. Y. Meritt's mother's maiden name was Margaret Trindall, and of Scotch-Irish descent; was raised in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. His father, E. J. Meritt, was born and raised in Belmont county, Ohio, and served as a soldier in the war of 1812. J. Y. Meritt received a common school education in Indiana, and was there raised to farming. He came to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1848, and for the first few years worked at the carpenters' trade, which he picked up after coming to the state. He bought the land where he now resides in 1856, and on December 25 of that year was married to Miss Mary Prine, and in 1858 moved upon the place. His residence is marked by a large elm tree, the largest tree in Mercer county. J. Y. Meritt enlisted in the three years' service in the late war in 1862, as a private in company K., 102d Ill. Vol. Inf., and was afterward promoted to the captaincy of the company, and participated in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged. He was wounded at Averysborough, North Carolina, in March 1865. Unlike many who enlisted at that time, he served until the close of the war, in 1865, when he was mustered out of service after participating in the grand review at Washington, D.C. In politics Capt. Meritt is a republican.

D. F. NOBLE was born in Fayette county, Indiana, February 9, 1813, and is the son of Daniel and Sarah Noble. His father is Scotch-English, and was born in North Carolina, August 22, 1787; his mother is German, and was born in Pennsylvania, January 20, 1788. His father left North Carolina with his parents at the age of six years, and went to Tennessee, where he remained until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he moved to Ohio, where he was married in 1810 to Miss Barbara Fruit, soon after which he went

to Indiana, where he resided until 1836; he then moved to Mercer county, Illinois. He was drafted for a soldier in the war of 1812, but did not serve, owing to the termination of the war soon after his enrollment. His father was a soldier in the revolutionary war. On coming to this county Daniel Noble first settled in Eliza township, where he remained until the time of his death in 1880, his wife having preceded him in 1875. They were buried side by side in Eliza cemetery, which place is marked by an appropriate monument. They had lived together sixty-five years. D. F. Noble, the subject of this sketch, is widely and favorably known, having from time to time served in all the various offices in this township. Soon after township organization he was elected supervisor of his town, which office he held for several years in succession; he also served as justice of the peace, and was postmaster for twenty consecutive years when the salary of the office amounted to one dollar per year. After serving in that office for twenty years he received his twenty years' salary, amounting to \$20 and a few cents. During the late war of the rebellion he was appointed enrolling officer for Eliza and Millersburg townships. He has also served as school director for thirty-six consecutive years. Mr. Noble received a common school education in Indiana, and moved with his parents to Eliza in 1836, since which he has been engaged in farming and stock raising. He was married in Union county, Indiana, January 26, 1836, to Miss Sarah Pratt, who died in 1881 and was buried in Eliza cemetery. Eight children have been born to them, six of whom are living. Miss Avarilla married Elisha L. Essley, to whom four children were born; Essley having died, Mrs. Essley married Michael Shannahan. Ira Noble married Miss Caroline Reed, who also died. The result of that marriage was ten children, two of whom died in infancy. Ira lives just a mile north of his father's place. David Noble married Eliza Hampton, of Rock Island county, and they had five children, one of whom died while young. Miss Barbara E. lives with her father on the home place. J. F. Noble also lives at home. Edward H. was married to Miss C. A. Bean in 1881, and lives with his father and farms the place.

WILLIAM SHIELDS was born in Wayne county, Indiana, January 9, 1819. He there received a common school education, and was also raised to farming. His father was a native of Westmoreland county, Virginia; and his mother, of Kentucky. They moved to Hamilton county, Ohio, where they were married. William Shields came to Mercer county in the spring of 1840, and first settled in New Boston township, after which he moved to Eliza and settled on section 33, which land was then owned by Abijah Wilson, whose daughter Lucy



he married April 12, 1849. His father and mother following in the same fall, settled in New Boston township, in sight of their son's residence. William Shields has long been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and also a Mason for thirty-two years; he is a member of New Boston Lodge, No. 59. Out of a family of eight children only three are living: Mariah Willits, Ira, and Jo. The two last named are living with their parents.

JOHN GLANCEY, a farmer and stock raiser, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, January 11, 1800. He moved with his brother from that state to Indiana in 1820, where he received a common school education, and for a while after followed wool carding and cloth dressing. Joseph Glancey, his father, was Irish; and his mother, whose maiden name was Maith Willits, was English and the second wife, his father having been twice married. Mr. Glancey was the sixth child of that family. His father's third wife was Lura Chambers. Mrs. John Glancey's father's name was Robert Moore, Scotch-Irish; his mother's maiden name was Deborah Willits, of English descent, and having formerly lived in York county, Pennsylvania, moved from that state to Ohio, and then to Indiana in 1812. Mrs. Glancey's father was married twice, and Mrs. Glancey is the seventh child of the second family. John Glancey, the subject of the sketch, came to Illinois and settled in Eliza in 1837, and still resides where he first settled. Mr. Glancey's name has been familiar to the public for many years. The most striking points in his character are his disposition to help others in their life struggles; his generosity; his animated and kind nature; his earnestness in his neighbors' success; and these have made for him friends everywhere, and he lives to see his bright dreams realized at the golden age of eighty-two. Mr. Glancey was elected first supervisor of his township; he was also one of the first county commissioners.

JOHN MASON was born in Switzerland, December 8, 1812. Casper Mason, his father, was born in the same parish in 1787, as was also his grandfather, Casper, July 11, 1762. Jacob John Mason, son of Casper, was born in the same parish, October 28, 1722. Susana, wife of John Mason, was also born in the same parish, May 3, 1816. They were married January 10, 1834, by which marriage they had eight children: Jacob, Henry, Albert, August, Jacob John, and John. Two not named died in infancy. John Mason received a high school education in the parish, which school was controlled by the family. He also served as a soldier in the Zurich war before coming to this country. He left his native country for America June 20, 1847, and arrived at New York city July 21. After his arrival in this country he spent

several years traveling from place to place, finally settling in Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he remained six years, from which place he moved to Wayne county, Indiana, where he stayed ten months. He then came to Illinois, settling on the Essley place. After a residence of five years he moved where he now resides. Like many others of the first settlers, Mr. Mason's circumstances in life were exceedingly limited, but by industry and economy in his business he has managed to acquire a good farm, with plenty around him.

THOMAS BEVERLIN was born in Wayne county, Indiana, November 10, 1843. His father was born in Hamilton county, Indiana, and his mother in Virginia. They were married in Indiana, and moved to this state in 1846. Thomas Beverlin received a common school education in this state, having come with his parents while young. His occupation is that of farming. He enlisted in the three years' service in the late war in 1862, in company K, 102d Ill. Vol. Inf., commanded by Capt. J. Y. Meritt, and after serving for nearly three years was mustered out of the service in 1865, having been engaged in all the battles with his regiment. On arriving in Illinois Mr. Beverlin's father first settled in Rock Island county and afterward in Eliza, Mercer county, on the place where Henry Brockett now lives, at which place he died August 8, 1878. His family consisted of eight children, of whom only two are now living. Thomas Beverlin was married July 16, 1866, to Miss Mary L. Denison. Four children born to them are all living: Emaranda, Fannie E., Estel, and Carrie. Mr. Beverlin is a member of the republican party, and also a member of the Masonic fraternity, Illinois City Lodge, Rock Island county.

AUGUST SCHRADER, a native of Germany, was born in King county, Hanover, December 27, 1830. He was educated at a common school, and afterward learned the wheelwright trade, which he followed until he came with his parents to America. The family first landed in New Orleans, where they remained a short time, and then moved to Mercer county, settling at New Boston, where August followed his trade for a while. After a residence of twelve years at New Boston he moved to Eliza, settling on the old Martin A. Cook farm, which he improved and still resides upon. Mr. Schrader was married in New Boston in 1851. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and also of the masonic lodge of that city. In politics he is a republican.

JACOB BEAR was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, November 29, 1812. Peter Bear, his father, was a German, a native of Hamburg, who on first coming to America settled in Pennsylvania, after which he moved to Pickaway county, Ohio, about the year 1811. Catharine, his mother, was a native of Pennsylvania also. Jacob Bear is the third



child of a family of eight, six of whom are still living. He came to Mercer county in company with his brother Martin in 1836, and immediately began improving a farm, upon which he broke ten acres the first year. He was married in 1844 to Miss Jemima Carson, of Morgan county, Ohio. His family are Clinton, Carlton, and Rolland. Clinton is at home. Carlton is at present absent from home. Rolland is deceased. Mr. Bear received a common school education in Indiana and was brought up to farming. He is now engaged in farming and stock raising.

JOHN HUMPHRIES LEECH was born April 8, 1811, in Monroe county, now West Virginia. His parents were Chichester and Margaret Leech. His mother's maiden name was Humphries. Chichester Leech was born in Culpepper, Virginia. His parents were Andrew and Elizabeth Leech. Chichester Leech was of English origin, his grandparents being among the first early settlers of America. Losing his father very young, his mother married one Burns and moved west to Monroe county. He had two uncles in the revolution, George and Valentine Leech, who entered that service at the age of sixteen and eighteen. They went to Georgia and were never after heard of. Margaret Humphries was the daughter of John and Catharine Humphries, whose name before marriage was Dickison. Her parents were from Ireland, but raised in America, near the Cow Pasture river in Virginia. John Humphries was raised in Ireland, near Dublin. His mother was the only daughter of Sir Toby Butler, lord mayor of Dublin. Young Humphries first landed in Pennsylvania, and from thence went to Virginia, where he became acquainted with and married Catharine Dickison, after which he moved to West Virginia. He there laid a warrant on 1,000 acres of land, had the same surveyed and recorded at Richmond. He there made his home, and raised a family of ten children, six boys and four girls, namely: John, James, William, Samuel, Richard, Robert, Elizabeth, Isabel, Margaret, and Martha. John was a miller by trade, Robert a shoemaker; the rest were all farmers. Samuel and Robert were in the war of 1812. Robert was present at the surrender of Hull in Canada. After the war he moved to Calloway county in 1818. Richard, following in 1820, settled in the same county where, after a short time, they were followed by their grandparents, accompanied by Isabel Carlton and husband, the rest of the family remaining in Virginia, where they died. William was elected high sheriff of the county where he was raised. Richard was elected county judge in Missouri, and was also there elected to the legislature of that state. In 1832 Chichester Leech and a family of nine children, all single but Samuel, started for Madi-

son county, Indiana, on which journey they lost one of the family. On the fourth morning of their journey they met thirty-five droves of hogs being driven from Kentucky to the markets of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Richmond. The journey was an exceedingly hazardous one, it having rained almost incessantly and the muddy roads were almost impassable. On the first day of December the party arrived at Henry Warner's, in Wayne county, where they went into a log cabin for the winter. Here they found times good; wheat 50 cents per bushel; corn,  $37\frac{1}{2}$ ; pork, \$3 per hundred; day's wages,  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents; rail-making,  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents per hundred. When the spring opened up the party started for Madison county, forty miles distant, which place they reached in a week's travel. J. H. Leech at this time was twenty-two years old, and he concluded to begin life for himself, and accordingly apprenticed himself to C. T. Hoover, a cabinet maker of Pendleton. At this place in 1842 malarial fever was prevalent and the family suffered terribly from its ravages, their father falling a victim to the malady in the spring of 1835. The family still stayed at Madison, where they experienced the financial crash of 1837. This caused a reverse in the family affairs, ending in great financial difficulty to them. At this time J. H. Leech went into partnership with Samuel Dale, his old employer, bought his uncle's interest, and they carried on the business until 1839, when Leech entered the carpenter trade with Isaac Williams. In the fall of that year, money being scarce, they wound up that business, and from that time till 1842 they were engaged in fixing up their business preparatory to moving farther west, and in that fall they came to Illinois, first landing in Mercer county near where J. Y. Merritt now lives, on section 31. In the early part of 1839 Mr. Leech was married to Elener R. Sibley, by which marriage they have had eight children, as follows: James W., Marianna H., Leander M. (who was a member of the 9th Iowa cavalry), Corydon, Adolphus M., Sarah E., Virginia C. and Mary B.

The Leeches are widely and favorably known throughout Mercer county. They came to Mercer county in an early day, with but little means with which to begin life in the new country, but by energy and honest diligence have attained an enviable position in the community in which they live. The three brothers, William, Andrew, and J. H., live but a few miles apart in Eliza township. WILLIAM LEECH was born in Monroe county, Virginia, in 1821, and came to this state at the age of twenty-one. He was married in Eliza township to Miss Eliza Spirling. Viewing his fine residence now one would hardly suppose that he came to this country with but half a dollar in his



pocket, yet such was the case. Andrew Leech was born in Virginia, in 1819, and when he left that state for Indiana was but twelve years old. After his arrival in Mercer county he first bought eighty acres before he was married to Miss Matilda Spirling. His wife was born December 25, 1830. From this union they had born to them: Daniel, William, Eliza J., Delphia A., George R., Mary E., Ulysses G., Susan F., and D. A. Leech. His daughter, Eliza J., married S. W. Anderson, who died October 22, 1873. George married Maggie Sloan December 26, 1878. Delphia died June 27, 1867.

MRS. HARIET NOBLE, widow of Jonathan Noble, formerly a native of Indiana, was born in that state in 1821. He spent his youth in that state where he also received a part of his education, finishing in Illinois after his removal here with his parents. He was married in 1861 to Miss Harriet Irvin, a native of Pennsylvania. Eight children resulted in this union: Peter, George, Cora, Omar, Charles, Jennie, Beecher, and Henry, named in order. Mr. Noble first began business with his father which he continued for some length of time, when he removed to Iowa where he purchased 160 acres of land near Iowa City. Then returning he was married and soon after bought a farm of 280 acres on sections 17 and 18, upon which Mrs. Noble is now living, and which is superintended by the oldest son. Mr. Noble was a hard-working, thorough business man, and highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was a member of the masonic fraternity.

IRA NOBLE, son of D. F. Noble, was born in Mercer county in 1839, and was married in 1860 to Miss Caroline Reed, of the same county. She died December 28, 1878, leaving a large family of children, all of whom are residing at home with their father: Sarah, Eva, Blanch, Clarinda, Gertie, Avarilla, Tom, and Caroline. The two oldest, Fred and Flora, were twins and died while young. Mr. Noble is a republican in politics, and a member of the masonic order of New Boston.

MRS. ELIZA MARTIN, wife of the late sergeant J. Martin, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, and went from there to Burlington, Iowa, in company with her sister in 1859. Mrs. Martin has been twice married, first to Charles Sabin, after whose death, July 19, 1865, she married a second time to J. Martin, who was well and favorably known, especially among his army associates, whose friendship and esteem he merited. He was chosen first sergeant of his company, 124th Vol. Inf., and credibly distinguished himself in the battles of Raymond, Jackson, Fort Gibson, Champion Hill, Fort Hill, Siege of Vicksburg, Brownsville, Spanish Fort, Yazoo City, Benton, and was present with his regiment during the Meridian campaign. He served from the com-

mencement of the great struggle to its close in 1865. He died in 1870, leaving four children to lament his death: Albert J., Laura, Grant, and Jenny. Grant is superintending the farm.

L. B. NOBLE, son of Lewis and Matilda Noble, was born in Eliza township in 1839. His great-grandfather was Irish and his great-grandmother English. They settled in Virginia in an early day, where our subject's grandparents were born and raised near Lynchburg, and where his parents were also born. They moved from that state to Tennessee, then to Ohio and from there to Indiana, in an early day. Here they resided about twenty years, after which they moved to this state in 1834, and were among the first early settlers of the township. Immediately after arriving here he took a claim and began improving a farm upon which our subject was raised. L. B. Noble enlisted in the late war, in the 27th Ill. Inf., in which he served three years. He was wounded at Kenesaw Mountain in 1864. After the close of the war he returned home and continued farming. In 1873 he was married to Miss Irabell Stephens, of Adams county, Iowa. By this marriage they had four children: Archer L., Elsie M., Don L., and Ethel J., all whom are residing at home.

JOHN PRATT, son of John and Avarilla Pratt, and brother of Rezin Pratt, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1815. His father, a German by descent, and a native of Maryland, moved with his parents to Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in a very early day, where he was married to Mrs. Avarilla Boner. Eleven children was the result of this union, all born in Pennsylvania. His father first moved to Union county, Indiana, in 1830, where they remained until 1838, at which time they moved to Mercer county, Illinois, first settling in Eliza township, on section 29, where he lived until they moved to his son Jonas' house in New Boston township. Here he died, his wife following seven years later. His oldest daughter, Eliza, died in 1839, and was the first death in Eliza township. They are all reposing in the Eliza Creek cemetery. Benjamin died in 1868, Lacey, in 1866, and Rezin in 1880. Jonah resides in New Boston township where he settled about the year 1852. Nancy, widow of Wesley Wicks, resides with her brother Jonah. Avarilla, wife of Elisha Essley, resides in Kansas. Tamar resides in New Boston. Annie, wife of John Dungan, in Kansas. The subject of this sketch was married in 1852 to Miss Nancy Fergason, by which marriage they have had nine children born to them. Sarah, the oldest, married Joel Woodward, a farmer, and they reside in Adams county, Iowa. Avarilla, wife of Oliver Essley, also resides in the same county. Louis married Miss M. Mol-



inger, of Iowa. Mary, wife of Henry Taylor, resides in Adams county, Iowa. Nancy, wife of John Jones, resides in Adams county, Iowa. Harvey, Malisse, Ruth, and Nellie are at home with their parents. Our subject began the business of farming in Eliza township, on section 30, where he lived five years and in 1853 bought a farm in section 36 and soon after eighty acres adjoining it, where he built a handsome residence and is now living in comfort and ease. His business has been farming and stock raising.

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### PERRYTON TOWNSHIP.

In writing a history of the town of Perryton, I have considered it desirable to embrace in it only those facts that at present have no historical record in existence elsewhere, and which would otherwise be lost with the present generation. I have also endeavored, as far as possible, to place myself with the people who will occupy our places at the recurrence of our national centennial anniversary, and relate such things as will be of most interest to them, as well as our more immediate successors.

Owing to the fact that the earlier settlers kept no written history or record or even regular accounts, and also to the fact that many of them have died or moved to distant localities, it has been very difficult to gather the facts herein recorded, and they must be my excuse for any errors of matter or data herein contained.

I would here acknowledge my indebtedness to all those who have kindly furnished assistance in this historical record of the town of Perryton, and I would especially acknowledge my obligations to William Doak, now living among us, and to Abraham Miller, Jr., who since 1847 has resided in Oregon.

The physical features of the town that will not change with time, are only those that are affected by amount of prairie woodland and such features of water courses as would be affected by cultivation and by domestic animals. When the white man came he found the surface in the condition created by natural causes, or as affected by the annual prairie fires of the Indians. The better and more level land was prairie covered by a coat of mixed natural grasses and plants that grew in stools, each independently, to the height of eighteen to twenty-four inches; some like the polar plant, or rosin weed, running up in alternate years to five or six feet. The ground seemed covered like a meadow, yet there was no sward as in blue grass, although the matting

of roots below bound the soil very firmly, each plant growing by itself as a tuft. As a pasture and for hay, it would yield from one to two tons per acre, and most of the plants were eaten by stock, but when closely pastured were sure to die out, giving place, subsequently, to the cultivated grasses. The broken grounds furnished the same grasses but in much less quantity, and in many places the coat was so light that the autumn fires were not hot enough to destroy certain kinds of timber in the most protected places, as on the south sides of ravines and creeks, and such as black oak and white hickory. In some few places the more valuable white and burr oaks had established small groves.

As it may in the future be desirable to know what part of the town once grew timber, I will in brief specify tracts which it occupied in 1845. In the fork of Camp creek, on sections 23 and 24 was some sixty acres of very fine white oak, and there were forty acres of good mixed timber in the southeast corner of section 21. The land that lay between the level and Camp creek on the north on sections 30 and 19, and a little on section 29 had large old white oak trees upon it. On the north side of the creek there was timber, white and burr oak, on N.E., N.E. 18, on S.E., N.W. 18; a little on S.E. of N.W. 17, and N.E. of N.E. 16. The broken ground in the southeast corner of the town had some scattering timber, mostly grown since the Indians had left; also most of section 24, and that part of sections 12, 13 and 14 that lay between the two large ravines up to the centre of section 12. The N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 19, S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 18, S.W. 17, and north to section 20 was more or less occupied by scattering young black oaks, or, as commonly called, blacks jacks, and white hickory; also a small body of mixed timber on northeast corner of 16 and southeast corner of 9.

In the early settlement of Perryton none of the woodland was considered as of any value but that containing white and burr oak, and for that reason was the last entered or bought of the Government. The ravines (or sloughs, as called by early settlers) were covered with a dense growth of grass and weeds, rising often to the height of six to ten feet, and were the hiding places of deer and wolves. Where there was sufficient water to create a channel, it was often not more than one or two feet wide and deep, even a mile from its source on the prairie. The channel being tortuous, and the bottom soil bound by very strong roots, it was only a channel for low water that apparently rarely changed or increased in size, the flood water running over the level bottoms without washing. Where now channels are washed twenty feet wide and six feet deep, the writer has stepped across the original channel without much effort.



After the removal of the Indians, and previous to 1846, they returned to hunt by permission of the Indian agents. The last evidence of their visit was in that year. Besides their knives and arrow heads, of which numbers are still found, they left no mark save the great trail their tribes followed in cutting off the bend of the Mississippi to the west, in their navigations up and down the river. This trail entered the town on the south side of 31; thence along the divide to Camp creek, crossing at a ford in 19; then along the ridge through 20 and 17, and nearly diagonally through the north half of 9, southeast of 4, and northwest of 3. In 1845 there were still five or six distinct, deep worn paths throughout the entire distance, and were the guiding path to Rock Island and Oquawka, the two points where it left the river. It is said that the army pursued Black Hawk upon this trail, and that Camp creek got its name from having been one of the camping places of the army. The pioneers found the country abounding in deer, wolves and prairie chickens, with many quails, turkeys, rabbits, and occasionally the wildcat and badger. The elk and buffalo had been abundant at no very distant period, as attested by their horns and skeletons, which were found all about this region even as late as 1845.

As was the case everywhere in the prairie country, the earliest settlers made their claims adjacent to a body of timber suitable for fencing and building, and believed almost universally that farms could only be made by the few who were early enough to secure a tract, or take from the government land the scattering white oaks; and it was for this reason that the best prairie land was the last selected. Although not strictly belonging to the history of the town of Perryton, the early settlement and history of Sugar Grove is so thoroughly intermixed, that no record of either can well be complete without encroaching somewhat on the domain of the other. The first settlement in this vicinity was at Sugar Grove, April 24, 1834. In the month of March, 1834, the following named persons left Montgomery county, Indiana, bound for the Mississippi river: Abraham Miller, Jr., and family, consisting of self, wife, and wife's sister; George Miller, Sr., Abraham Miller, Sr., Isaac Miller, Jr., Jacob Miller, John Miller, Elias Moore, Ben. Welch, Dr. John Kester, William Shuck, Thomas Dauson, James Kester, and William Moore. This company was fitted out with six ox teams, with breaking plows and other necessary farming utensils. They intended putting in crops and then returning for their families. George Miller, Sr., was selected as guide, because of his extensive experience as a pioneer, and he steered his trackless route through the boundless prairies for days and days, without the aid of a compass, consulting only the stars to guide him to his destination. This

company first landed at Sugar Grove, April 24, 1834, and built a small cabin made of split linn logs, on the east side of the grove, on the claim of Abraham Miller, Sr.; and under the protection of this rude cabin the entire company were sheltered until they had each broken up and planted a piece of sod corn, interspersed with pumpkins and melons. The wife of Abraham Miller, Jr., did the cooking for the entire colony. None of the crops were fenced that season, for as soon as planted they all started back to Indiana, with the exception of Abraham Miller and family. At that time there were no other inhabitants within a circuit of ten miles. Abraham Miller, Jr., with his family, remained in their cabin at Sugar Grove until the corn had got well out of the ground, when he removed to New Boston, where he remained until fall, and until the balance of the company returned with their families from Indiana. Of the original company of settlers at Sugar Grove, all but the Millers and Elias Moore went back to Indiana to remain, or settled in the vicinity of New Boston, while a few additions were made to this colony by several families that returned with them in the fall. After the corn crops were all gathered, cabins were built for the different families and preparations were made to settle down for the winter. As the nearest grist mills were on Spoon river, most of the meal for subsistence was procured by pounding the corn in improvised and rudely-constructed mortars.

George Miller, Sr., father of Abraham Miller, Jr., to whom I am greatly indebted for many of these facts, emigrated to Oregon in 1847. In many respects he was a remarkable man, a noble type of the material out of which our early settlers were made. He was the father of twenty-four children, all of whom he lived to see grown men and women, and bought and gave to each of them a home. All of his children living, but one, are now in Oregon. He died in Oregon, September 11, 1874, in his ninetieth year, and until a short time before his death was as vigorous as most men at forty-five. Nearly all of the Millers moved to Oregon about the same date. They were originally from the State of Tennessee, Crab Orchard, on Doe river, Carter county. They left there for Indiana in the fall of 1812, when the entire country embraced within the limits of that state was occupied by the Indians, and when pioneer life was one of constant danger. It 1834 they left Montgomery county, Indiana, for Mercer county, Illinois, which brings them to the time of our history. Of the four elder Millers who originally settled at Sugar Grove two were democrats in politics and two whigs; two were pro-slavery and two anti-slavery; two were Methodists and two old school predestinarian Baptists. The children followed their fathers in both politics and religion. Coming from



Tennessee and pioneering in Indiana these early settlers were independent of most of the aids of civilized society; their clothing was mostly home-made, from wool and flax; a spring pole mortar pounded their meal; their axes built houses, fences and implements; their rifles replenished empty larders. Those who were the earliest settlers of the ridge south of Camp creek were from Pennsylvania and other eastern states, and being less practiced in the art of pioneering were subject to more privations and experienced more difficulties in supplies of meat and bread. Mr. Perry says that they were obliged to go to Kickapoo, in Peoria county, for their milling in 1836, and to Henderson for blacksmithing; yet there must have been mills near Henderson, for William Doak relates an experience in going there to mill in the winter of 1837-8, when with two neighbors he made the trip with a wagon and three yoke of oxen. In order to pass two farms before a supply of corn for a grist could be obtained they were obliged to make a wide detour to the east, became lost in the night upon the trackless prairie, were obliged to break ice and ford streams, and only near morning, wet and frozen, they reached the second place, where they bought and shelled the last of their grist.

Soon after the Millers settled at the Grove they made of a boulder a small grist mill, and upon it they and their neighbors ground their grain. About 1839 they built a saw mill on Edwards river, and the year after a grist mill, and shortly after this a flour mill was built on the "slough," where Milan now stands. The following description of the first grist mill ever erected in Mercer county will no doubt prove interesting to the readers of this history. It was built by the Millers at Sugar Grove, and was used for several years. They sawed off an oak log about three feet long, stood it on end and placed coals of fire in the center of the top, burning out a hole in the shape of a basin, which they dressed out nicely to receive the corn. They then took a long pole and fastened the butt in or on the ground, set a forked stick in the ground and laid the pole in it, about the middle, something after the style of an old-fashioned well sweep. They then took another pole and fastened to the top of this, like a rope to the top of a well sweep. In the lower end of this pole was inserted an iron wedge, with the butt down. Then a hole was bored through this pole, about eighteen inches above the wedge, and a pin put through it, which pin was seized with both hands and the pole worked up and down. Afterward the Millers found a stone of suitable grain, which they split open and made two good mill stones, twenty-two inches in diameter, which was an improvement on the first mill. Three of the Millers were blacksmiths and they made all their own mill irons when later they built a better grist mill and also a saw mill.



MRS MARTIN BEAR .





Previous to the settlement of Perryton there was a road laid out by Warren county, of which Mercer was then a part, from Monmouth to Clark's Ferry, now Andalusia, on the Mississippi, which, like all the earlier roads, was laid with reference to fords and ridges, regardless of section lines. Probably but little of the original road is now a highway, excepting that from the bluffs of Camp creek to section 9. Although this was the only laid out road, yet the nature of the prairie turf and the opportunity of selection of route in an open country made the traveling very good. Even the most spongy sloughs were covered with a soil firm enough to bear a loaded wagon.

In a community where all were dependent upon labor that brought food in abundance but no money, all were equally rich, or rather equally poor. Fashion in fabric or style was unknown. Those who were able to work their own wool and flax into garments were the most independent, and the tow-cloth kersey and jeans of the housewives' loom sufficed for nearly all their wants. Dependent upon each other, a warm heart and a ready hand were of vastly more value in a neighbor than worldly possessions. Every house was a tavern where the traveler found hospitality, and the rude log cabin never was so full as to shut out the belated wanderer. No caste of wealth or birth interfered with the social relations of those who made up a community. Illustration of the plainness of dress: A young man of this primitive period, courting the daughter of one of our earliest settlers, proposed to his sweetheart and her friend a walk of two miles across the prairie to a neighbor's, and, like all young men in like circumstances, affected as much style as possible. The neighbor described the girls as clad in linsey dresses and sun-bonnets, each one hanging on the arm of the young man. He was clad in very short tow pants, a white shirt, with a high and stiff collar, and a home-made straw hat, holding an umbrella over his head, his big feet, brown and bare, a very visible means of support.

With the pioneer settler comes the pioneer preacher, usually a farmer. Knowing more of his Bible than any other book, he made up in spirit and earnestness what he lacked in education. Preaching in log cabins or groves, where the school-houses had not yet arisen, he always found an audience in the entire community. Denominational preferences, however strong, never prevented the attendance of all, no matter who preached. To show the plain style of one, a good old man, who most frequently preached in this neighborhood, in illustrating the doctrine of perseverance he said: "It is like the man who took a coon skin to the store, ah, and says he you may have this coon skin for fifty cents, ah, and the merchant said he did not want it for fifty cents, ah:



then, says he, you may have it for twenty-five cents, ah, and the merchant said he did not want it for twenty-five cents, ah; then the man says, you may have it for a bit, ah, and the merchant said he did not want it for a bit, ah; then the man goes away and leaves it on the counter, ah, and the merchant runs after him with the coon skin, ah. So it is with religion; when you have got it you can't sell it, nor give it away, nor lose it, ah!" The first religious services held in Sugar Grove was by a branch of the old-school Baptist church, of Henderson Grove, extended to Sugar Grove, and held once each month, lasting two days. This denomination was more commonly known by the name of hard-shell Baptists. Shortly afterward a church was regularly constituted at Sugar Grove, called the Edwards river church, in correspondence with the Spoon river association of old-school predestinarian Baptists. Elder Joseph Jones was pastor of that church, and Abraham Miller, Jr., was ordained to a deaconship. There was no church building, and the meetings were generally held at private houses, or in a log school-house, when one had been erected. At a more recent date the Methodists established a class at the house of John Miller, in Sugar Grove. They finally had a camp ground in the Grove, with yearly attendance. One of the original settlers says that there never was a temperance lecture delivered at the Grove from 1834 to 1846; and says further, that they had no habitual drunkards, idlers, fanatics or unnecessary babblers, and no earthly use for temperance lecturers.

In regard to postoffices I have not been able to ascertain, with any certainty, what were the earlier mail facilities. Previous to 1845 a post route had been established through this town, with an office at Millersburg. Letter postage cost twenty-five cents, just the price of a bushel of wheat. But little correspondence was carried on. In 1847 our people succeeded in getting an office at James Gingles', it being the only office until the establishment of a route from Millersburg to Rock Island, when, in 1854, an office was created at Hamlet, at the house of Graham Lee, and removed in 1857 to its present locality, the business place of Josiah Candor.

Until 1839 there had been no school. In that year Miss Farwell (afterward married to William Doak) taught a school in a little 10×14 house, built by Jackson Woods; on the northwest of section 26. The first school-house was obtained by moving an old frame tenement house of J. Gingles, from near the center of section 27 to the center of section 28, in the year 1849, and it was not until some years later a school-house was built on the north side of the town. Abraham Miller, Jr., claims to have taught the first school at the Grove, but is not positive. He did, however, teach the first school ever had in Mercer county, at or near New Boston.

Recurring to the scarcity of money, which retarded the growth of society and deprived the early settlers of many things, afterward considered necessities, I will explain that it took all that was held, and all that could be borrowed, to enter the land which they desired for homes. While the absolute necessities of living, not obtainable from the farm, could be got from the few traders by barter, yet the prices paid previous to 1840 were not such as to induce the farmer to indulge in luxurious habits. Wheat at twenty-five cents; corn, ten cents; pork, dressed, one and a half to two cents; good three year old steers and cows, from six to ten dollars. As near as can be ascertained, the first produce sent to market from our town was shipped by Abel Thompson, in a flat-boat from New Boston, in the fall of 1840, our respected fellow-townsmen, William Doak, being one of the crew. Without serious difficulty they reached New Orleans in three months, and disposed of the cargo, consisting of wheat, potatoes, beans, sauer-kraut, cabbage, etc., etc., to such good advantage that William Doak and Paul Sheriff, in the fall of 1841, built at Keithsburg a flat-boat, on the bank where Keithsburg now stands, and loading it mostly with their own produce, made a successful and profitable trip to St. Louis. Their success in this venture so encouraged them and others, that the next fall they repeated the experiment, only to end disastrously, for being caught by the very early winter of 1842-3, they, with four other flat-boats, and three steamboats, were frozen up at a point called Quiver Island, fifteen miles above the mouth of the Illinois river. In order to relieve themselves they were obliged to cut a channel through fifteen miles of ice, in very cold weather, and such were the hardships endured, that of the forty stalwart men who began this task, but three were left to cut the last gorge and free the boats. The writer and the reader of this chapter can but regret that our indomitable neighbor Doak, one of the three iron-hearted men mentioned, should, even in front of St. Louis, his destination, have been wrecked in a dense fog to lose nearly all for which he had risked and endured so much. Speaking of the departure of the first flat-boat from New Boston, Mr. Doak relates that it was watched with intense interest by the large crowd that lined the shore, and when the boat cut loose and swung out into the stream, three rousing cheers were given in honor of the event, which was such an important era in the history of New Boston. In the fall of 1842, George and Isaac Miller, of Sugar Grove, built a boat at Keithsburg, and loaded it with produce with destination for New Orleans.

Before the time of the introduction of flat-boats as a means of civilization, the first settlers depended upon their own resources for many of the articles of food which we at this day regard as among the necessities.



The crops raised by the pioneers of Perryton were mainly corn, oats, flax, and the most useful vegetables. Melons were raised in abundance. Flour could be bought from off the boats, at Denison's landing in 1834 at four dollars per barrel. But corn was principally used for bread, and for meat they raised a few hogs, killed deer, turkeys, prairie chickens, and caught fish. One of the early settlers says that what groceries they used were mostly obtained in exchange for deer and coon skins, beeswax, etc. Coffee was made from parched corn, peas and wheat. Red root leaves, swetted under a dutch oven, dried, and when drawn and sweetened with honey, was called "Grub Hyson," and was considered a fine substitute for tea. Pork and corn dodgers was the principal food.

From the flat-boat to the steamboat the transition was rapid, so that but few were built after the period mentioned here, and the increase in steamboats, keeping pace with the increase of commerce, markets were opened, and by 1845 business had its regular channels, and settlers were able to sell produce, although at the low price of: wheat, forty cents; corn, pure white for southern bread, ten to twelve and a half cents; pork, one and a half to two cents. The trade of Perryton was almost exclusively with New Boston, until the building of the Chicago & Rock Island railroad, when the superior inducements offered gradually withdrew the trade to Rock Island.

Previous to 1845, I can learn of no attempt to organize a church within our limits, nor of public worship by regular appointment, excepting that previously mentioned in this record, and pertaining to the early settlement of Sugar Grove. The earliest carpentering was done in building houses and barns for McHard, Gingles and Burrall, by Andrew Gingles, a son of Robert Gingles and nephew of James Gingles. Philip Miller occasionally cut grindstones and gravestones, to add to a living obtained by his rifle and the rental of a small piece of land. The first blacksmith shop in town was kept by a man named Jones, on section 25, in 1846-7, and perhaps a little later, but between 1850 and 1860 there was no shop in town of any kind. About the latter date, a blacksmith shop was started on the northeast corner of section 11. George J. Miller, son of Abraham Miller, Jr., should properly be entitled to the credit of first birth in this town, but shortly before his birth, Mr. Miller had moved his family temporarily to New Boston, where he was then teaching school. This was August 31, 1834. But the first birth at Sugar Grove was that of Eliza Miller, daughter of George Miller, Sr., in 1835. Eliza Miller is now living at Miller's Station, Linn county, Oregon, with her second husband, Philip V. Morris, and she is the mother of a large family of children.

William Moore was the first man married; he married Miss Mary Miller, daughter of Isaac Miller, at Sugar Grove in 1835. The first death was a child about one year old, named Philip Farlow, son of John and Sarah Farlow; died of croup.

The earliest settlers on the ridge all planted such trees as they could get or raise, mostly seedlings. The first grafted fruit brought to the town was peddled out by a Mr. Robinson, a nurseryman of Fulton county, but there was no general planting of good fruit until Mr. McWhorter established a nursery near Millersburg in 1846. The sauce depended upon by early settlers was mainly obtained from the crab-apple and plum thickets, which abounded in the vicinity of timber. These failing, the dish of "those" or "them molasses," was the ever present and only substitute for sauce. As common as the molasses dish, was the custom of making it a plural. In one instance this custom was broken by an uncourteous guest replying to his landlady's question: "Will you have some of these?" by saying, "I will take a few of her." One of our earlier settlers relates an account of the manner then in vogue of acquiring seedlings. On the occasion of a public parade, or muster day at Millersburg, at a time in the history of that village when it had assumed metropolitan airs, a peddler brought to town a lot of small and half green peaches, which he retailed out at a bit a dozen. The boys eagerly demolished the fruit and threw the seeds on the ground, while a certain economical settler gathered them up for seed. Fearing that he would not obtain enough, our thrifty farmer borrowed a bit for the purpose of investing in peaches, with the view of obtaining the seed. Several years afterward he returned the money thus borrowed. Wild grapes, blackberries and strawberries were used by the settlers for making pies and preserves, and wild hops answered the purpose of cultivated ones.

The first fence in the town was built in 1835, on the piece of land broken by Abraham Miller, on the south side of section 33. This was done by piling sod, previously turned by a plow, and making a small ditch on the outside, the dirt from which was thrown inside the pile of sod. In 1837 Mr. Burrall, and perhaps Perry, made more sod fence, and began the making of rails, which afterward constituted the sole fencing material, until the unentered land was stripped of everything which would make a rail or pole. About 1850 the building of board fences commenced. The first effort at hedging was made by planting seed in 1848-9, and I think the oldest hedge is that of James Gingles, which was "set in" about 1852, when the date of hedge fencing first commenced. The Millers invented and manufactured a machine for fence ditching. This was the first machine of the kind ever used in



Mercer county. It was an improvement made on the original ditching plow, and was done by adding a bar with a flat underground lining or share that cut off the tier of sod from the bottom. They used three or four yoke of oxen, and thus a string of sod fence one hundred rods long was cut in a very short time. A few abortive efforts at draining by a machine cutting an open ditch, was made as early as 1848. Mole ditching began in 1860, and was prosecuted for many years with varying success, but was finally abandoned. The aggregate result of mole ditching has been advantageous. With the exception of a few rods to obtain water, and drain cellars, no tile has yet been laid.

With regard to agricultural implements so much has been said and written that will go into history, that I forbear saying much more than that steel plows appeared in the Diamond plow in 1844, followed rapidly by the plow of the present model. Plows antedating the Diamond were but little better in their working than though of unhewn wood, our friable soil never leaving a mold-board until removed by hand. In 1850 the first reaper was introduced by Levi Cooper, and shortly before the separating thresher appeared. The first plow used for breaking prairie in Mercer county, was the old bar-share with a wooden mold. The Miller's invented a lever power and hung the plow on wheels, which they used at Sugar Grove. It could be set to any depth, and be thrown out at will, and it would run without a holder. This simple invention was almost universally adopted throughout the county for breaking prairie. In this arrangement the driver was also the plowman, thereby saving one hand, besides doing much better work. For ground once broken, the early settlers had what was called the Bull plow, with a short iron mold in front, a few inches high, with the balance of the mold made of wood. Next was the Carey plow, an improvement on the Bull plow. For tending corn when up, shovel plows, hoe harrows and one horse harrows were used. The Bull tongue was simply a narrow shovel, resembling the pattern after which it was named. The hoe-harrows were a number of small shovels set in a forked stick, in the shape of the letter "A." The one-horse harrows were made in the same way, generally with wooden teeth, and made narrow, so as to run between corn rows. Next followed the Scott Diamond plow. In early times it was peddled through Mercer county. The Diamond plow was simply a diamond square, cut out of a steel or iron mold the required size; the lower square was sharpened out and served as the edge or share, and was set up in the required pitch, and served as share and mold-board, all solid. It was bent hollowing without any twist, and then bolted fast to a wooden upright, set in a beam like a shovel plow, but the mold

did not set square like the shovel, but was set quartering so as to throw the dirt to the side of the furrow. This plow would scour completely.

In the fall of 1835 John Black and family settled on section 36, and so far as ascertained was actually the first settler within the limits of the township proper. In March, 1836, a child was born to Black, which died at the age of five years. Perry says in 1836 Maj. Edward Burrall had twenty acres broken on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28, now the property of David Blue, and that William Moore broke some land on southwest of 30, and put up the body of a log house. Philip Miller also built a log cabin and lived on the same section. In 1837 Ed. Burrall, Jr., and Alfred Perry, living on the west side of Sugar Grove, broke prairie for Maj. Burrall on S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 38, and for Dr. Perry on E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 28. Linus and A. Wood came upon the northeast of 26 and built a log house during the year. A. Perry and E. Burrall did the first farming on the ridge in Perryton, and during this year Dr. Perry came west and in the winter of 1837-8 built a log house near the timber on the northeast of 28. The crops raised this year were sold to the Genesee colony, at the price of one dollar for wheat and seventy-five cents for corn and potatoes. In 1838 Austin Wood moved his family to the house built by his son. Burrall built the first frame house on southwest of 28, for Sheldon Wooden as tenant. Dr. Perry died this year. There were no markets during this year, and the settlers went all the way to Kickapoo for milling.

In 1839 James Gingles and William McHard, with their families, moved to Perryton, buying for \$500 the claim of Dr. Perry to the west half of section 28. In this year Louisa Wood was married to Lyman Tenney. During this year the land sale occurred, and those who could raise the money entered a part or all of their claims. John Harris and J. Gingles moved into the township, as did also William Doak with his father and family. In 1840 William McHard and James Gingles divided the Perry claim and each built a one and a half story frame house, about 16×24 feet, with two rooms below. These were regarded at the time as not only handsome and commodious but luxurious. Previous to this time there had been but a home market for produce, which was conducted mainly by barter. Drury and Willetts, of New Boston, traded for some wheat allowing twenty-five cents per bushel in store goods. In 1844 Hamlet Cooper stopped at Burrall's, with his wife and seven children, a yoke of oxen and cart and cow and a calf. Out of money, he was induced to look at the prairie on the north side of Camp creek. It being a very bad season, with the streams high, he camped on the banks of Camp creek, and swimming the creek, he examined the land and determined to make a claim



on section 9. Waiting two weeks for the water to fall so that he could cross the creek, he in the last of June moved up and made the first settlement on the north side of Camp creek. At that time there were living on the south side of Camp creek the following families, viz: John Black and Mr. Burroughs on section 36; Austin Wood and W. A. Wood on section 26; Daniel Ebner and William Doak on section 27; William McHard and James Gingles on section 28; Edward Burrall and Robert Gingles on section 29; Philip Miller and John Crooks on section 30; and Isaiah Lockhard on section 33.

In the fall of 1845 Graham Lee and Henry Lee settled on the east side of section 9. Up to this time the settlements had been begun by claims, and but few had been able to enter the whole amount of their claims, Edward Burrall and Philip Miller being the only known exceptions. From this to 1850, excepting the lands held by military title, the best lands were taken up and entered, or bought at the land office, and by 1855 no lands were held by claims. The dates of settlements subsequent to 1845 will be shown by the records, and therefore are omitted from this history which is only intended to cover ground that records will not reach. By general consent the year 1845 is considered by the present inhabitants to terminate the years of pioneer settlement.

The climate in the early history of Perryton was subject to very severe changes from one extreme to another, with such suddenness as to surprise every one, and thus often causing suffering, and even death, when the settlers were caught unprepared away from home on the boundless prairie. An early settler relates of a phenomenon in 1834, in the fall from the clouds of a heavy body of frost, in veins and in all manner of strange shapes. There would be a solid body of several rods in extent that killed all kinds of vegetation, and leading out of this body, in a zig-zag course, a narrow strip of the frost that left its mark like the course of a prairie fire. The wind, in the fall season of the year especially, would veer about from the south to the northwest, piercing with the most intense cold, and the fine, dry snow almost blinding and cutting like needles those exposed to its fury. A storm of this kind is remembered by one of the earliest settlers at the Grove, in which some persons were caught away from home and perished by being frozen. Abraham Miller, Jr., was once caught away from home on the prairie in a stinging nor'wester, and so badly frozen that for a time his life was despaired of. He was utterly helpless when found by his neighbors, who had become alarmed for his safety and organized a party of rescue; the skin all peeled off from his face and hands, and the evil effects of this freezing followed him to the declining years of a remarkably vigorous manhood. An old settler, describing from mem-

ory some of the disastrous effects of a fierce hurricane which he witnessed in the north end of Mercer county in 1844, says that the whole neighborhood had scarcely a house left standing for several miles. The main body of the hurricane was not more than three to five miles wide; it took Mercer in 15 north, and in range 1 or 2, where it did the greatest damage. It came up hurriedly with a dark thunder cloud, accompanied with a fierce dash of rain, with a dense fog or smoke. Two deaths and a large number slightly injured were the results so far as heard in Mercer county. One Howard Trego was killed by his house falling on him, but his wife and children escaped with only slight injuries.

Among our first settlers there was scarcely ever any thought of going to law with each other. A certain code of honor reigned supreme. If a neighbor did not pay his just debts as soon as able, his neighbors shamed him into paying, and if that failed the case was arbitrated, settled, and all hands went home satisfied and jovial over the result. If a man inclined to act dishonorable, social ostracism brought him around to a sense of the magnitude of his offense, and he was generally made to feel that the community would not receive on an equality any one tainted with the suspicion of dishonorable conduct. In the settlement of personal difficulties, growing out of insults and other indignities offered by one to another, a resort was generally had to a test of prowess in a fair stand-up and knock-down fight, the respective friends of the combatants seeing that fair play was had until one of the warriors cried, "Hold! enough!" If one of the parties was not considered able to combat a larger and more muscular opponent, sometimes a friend and sometimes an entire stranger would take his place in the ring. In those days a coward was reckoned among the contemptible things of earth, and if a man exhibited cowardice by drawing a weapon and threatening another, he was lucky to escape the indignation of the bystanders with a whole body. Although the standard of honor adopted by our early settlers would hardly be regarded as just the thing at the present day, there was that about it which challenges our admiration in spite of the condemnation put upon it by modern civilization.

The first justice of the peace in the Sugar Grove precincts was Abraham Miller, Jr. The first suit at law ever had was instituted by a man named B. Lloyd. An excuse for a lawsuit was a sufficient provocation generally for a free "pitch in." At the time of this first suit there was but one copy of the Illinois statutes in Mercer county, and that was in the hands of the county clerk at New Boston, William Drury, and it could not be loaned. The justice begged time for



preparation, but the plaintiff was rampant for litigation and would not listen to a proposition for postponement. So the justice was compelled to ride some twelve miles to Rock Island county, where he borrowed a statute of Daniel Edgington, Esq., which copy was reluctantly loaned with the solemn stipulation that it was to be returned in three days. During the time allowed him our justice pored over this book to ascertain the statutory duties enjoined upon his office, and in taking notes for future reference. The notes thus taken from the statutes constituted the edition from which our justice dispensed the law, and were used for a number of years by him, until he was fortunate enough to secure a printed edition. When copying from the borrowed book, one night he went to sleep over his labor and upset the inkstand over the sacred volume, which so terrified him that he licked away with his tongue until he had saved the blotted pages from entire obliteration.

Recurring once more to the wild animals and game found by the earlier settlers of this region, as bearing upon the question of food, I will enumerate such as are suggested to my memory and spoken of by the pioneers. Deer were in great abundance, wild turkeys, prairie chickens, squirrels (the gray and the large fox), pheasants, partridges or quails, and the curlew and plover. There were plenty of wild geese and ducks, pelicans, swans, coons, rabbits, large wolves, and the prairie wolf or cayota. The large wolf and the small frequently crossed and the half breed made a very troublesome animal. Wildcats or catamounts, a chance panther, mostly in the heavily timbered bottoms, bears, though not plenty, raccoons, badgers, and opossums. There were ground squirrels, owls, hawks, eagles, turkey buzzards, paroquets, and large snow-white owls. Of fish there was an abundance of all fresh-water varieties, such as the catfish, pike, pickerel, bass, perch, drum, buffalo, red-horse, sucker, dog-fish, flying fish, sunfish, and salmon. Abraham Miller, Jr., says that he has killed with the gig in the Edwards river pike weighing fifty pounds, and that he built a fish-trap in the same river by which he secured barrels and barrels of fish, some of which he took to Knoxville for sale. One method adopted by the settlers for trapping deer was by what was called fire-hunting, in a canoe.

Of the domestic animals raised by the first settlers, it is a difficult matter to give anything like a pedigree. They were of various kinds and grades, such as the old pioneers happened to have on hand when they landed and settled down in their backwoods homes. At that early date but very little attention had been paid to blooded stock, and hogs and cattle were selected more on account of their qualities for

picking their own living in the woods and on the prairies. George Miller, Sr., brought some fine brood mares with him to Sugar Grove, from Montgomery county, Indiana, in the fall of 1834. They were originally the foal of a Goliath dam, by a McKinney roan sire, crossed by a Smiling Call horse, then by a cross from a Roanoke sire, and then next crossed with the Copper Bottom and the Flag. This stock was large, well proportioned, docile, and of fine spirit, and well suited for the early settlers. One Joseph Tichnor, a young man from Ohio, brought the first Berkshire hogs to Mercer county, and made quite a speculation out of them in the Sugar Grove settlements. George Miller, Sr., brought from Indiana with him a lot of hogs that were a cross between the large China and the large white Shaker hog; they were long, large, heavy-boned, and thought to be as easily fattened as the China. Abraham Miller killed one of this breed in the early history of the Sugar Grove settlement that weighed over five hundred pounds, and thinks he could have been made to weigh seven hundred. Later, a few pigs were introduced of the Byfield and Bedford stock. The Berkshire was regarded as a failure. The stock of cattle were a mixed breed, between the old scrub and the Durham, Patton, etc. They made fine, large work oxen, good milkers, and excellent beef. The sheep were of the commonest stock, and no more were kept than answered the purpose of making the necessary clothing. The little flocks of sheep were highly esteemed by the pioneers, because of their usefulness in furnishing clothing, and they were carefully protected from the depredations of the wolves, as they seemed to have a strong hankering after mutton. This appetite resulted in the destruction of the entire race of the large wolves, and almost all of the prairie wolves, by the writer, whose serious loss in sheep compelled him to resort to an extensive use of strychnine, used in bait to accomplish their destruction. After 1845 the wolves had become so thoroughly extinguished as to occasion no more losses or annoyance to owners of sheep.

Deer were quite plentiful in the early history of Perryton, so much so as to furnish a large portion of the meat required for the table. Of the deer and their habits, much could be written which would no doubt prove an interesting part of this record, but I will desist with the simple relation a fight between two buck deer, witnessed by a pioneer near where the town of Millersburg now stands. When first noticed, they were plunging and pushing at each other, with horns interlocked and in a manner peculiar to these animals. Their horns could be heard rattling against each other quite distinctly for a distance of three hundred yards. They were both large bucks, one of them a monster of his species, and the struggle between them a fierce one. After watching



with deep interest for about one hour, our informant closed in to a distance of about forty yards and awaited an opportunity to get a good square shot. From the extraordinary size of the larger buck he was satisfied that it was the same one that had acquired the designation of "The Town Buck" from the hunters in the settlement, because of his great size, and because of frequent visits to the township, and successful efforts in always escaping. To capture such a prize would have been regarded as a great honor among the hunters, so our relator was watchful and wary. The bucks kept continually lunging at each other so that it was impossible to get a safe shot. Finally the smaller one broke away and ran off pursued by the larger. Knowing their habits, pursuit was given and the "Town Buck" soon fell a victim to the rapacity of the hunter. The fame of this affair spread for a great distance, as the buck was one of the largest ever seen by hunters who had grown gray in pioneer life.

The tribes of Indians roaming about Mercer county in its first settlement were the Sacs and Foxes. The Fox tribe, about the time of the Black Hawk war, formed a union with the Sacs, and became a tribe known as the Fox and Sac. They were large, strong, active, brave and warlike, and used all of the weapons of Indian warfare with great skill. This tribe was formerly headed by the famous warrior Black Hawk. After the war known as the Black Hawk war, he was degraded from his chieftainship because of his counsel in favor of peace. Abraham Miller relates that he saw Black Hawk, with his twelve braves, who always accompanied him after his downfall, strike their evening camp on the bank of the Mississippi, at the mouth of Sturgeon Bay, near New Boston. They were on a last visit to the grave of Black Hawk's daughter, who was buried there in a grove of black oaks. For their evening meal they boiled a pole-cat which they did not even trouble themselves to take the hair off, but the hair simmered to the surface of the stew. When sufficiently cooked, Black Hawk gave to each a share of the savory meal; the first received the head, and so on until all were served. Black Hawk then wore about his neck a long string of silver medals, which had been presented to him by the government, and by English fur companies. Occasionally some few Miamis and Potawottomies wandered through the county, but not to remain. The headquarters of the Winnebagos for the winter season was on the banks of the Mississippi, in Mercer county, a short distance above New Boston. They could there winter their ponies better than elsewhere, in consequence of the tall grass that grew along the bays. Sugar Grove was a great camping-ground for the Indians at one time, especially on the south side along Edwards river.

The Indian name of this was "Big Turtle river." When the Miller's first settled at the Grove, the Indians had a large encampment there for making sugar, with quite a large wigwam made of poles and covered with bark.

The early history of Perryton, thus hastily and briefly written at moments of leisure, and under many adverse circumstances pertaining to lack of data and conflict of facts, will, I hope, possess the certain interest always attaching to the record of that which has passed away, never to return. It is the reflection rather of a period of pioneer life that long ago ceased to exist, the mirror of an irrevocable past, the grim romance of the adventurous life of the early settler. None of us who were living and moved in the scenes of pioneer settlement ever, in brightest anticipation, contemplated the possibility of such changes as have been brought by the advancing tide of civilization. Never in fondest dreams did the pioneer picture the transition that has actually taken place. The fields have been made to bloom and yield most bountifully of the products which make nations prosperous, thus contributing to their happiness. Many of those who are now enjoying the fruits of the labors of the early pioneers have but little conception of what it cost in hardships and privations to open up the wilderness, and when they read of the trials encountered, the adventures endured, to accomplish this result, they can only realize it in the light of a pleasant romance. While the rising generation are amassing wealth in a life of comparative luxury, we, the earlier settlers yet living, experience a lively sense of gratitude in the thought that our hands contributed so materially to the building up of the present condition of prosperity and happiness of those who are now occupying the beautiful homes and magnificent farms to be found in Perryton.

[To the foregoing, contributed by Mr. Lee, we append a few notes relative to the organizations of the township.—ED.]

#### HAMLET.

The village of Hamlet, located one mile south of the north line and three miles west of the east line of the township, was laid out on the land of Josiah and Capt. D. M. Candor, in 1868, and was christened Hamlet, in honor of Hamlet Cooper, now deceased, one of the very first of the pioneers to locate in this section of the country. The progress of the village has been slow, owing to its proximity to Reynolds, the nearest railroad town, but it is one of those quiet country villages where the farmers in the community go for their mail and spend a short time in social converse. The first store erected in the place was that of Josiah and Capt. D. M. Candor, who dealt in general merchan-



dise. The latter of the Candor brothers has at this writing withdrawn from the firm; the former yet continues in the business. Lloyd Gorton opened the second store. The first blacksmith shop was opened here by Thomas Lewis. The business houses of the village are one harness shop, one store of general merchandise, by Josiah Candor, one drug store, by Dr. Criswell, one wagon and blacksmith shop, by A. T. Hooples and D. M. Dumbell and son. The village has a good local trade, and has a population of about 125 persons. The postoffice now kept at Hamlet was first established in this neighborhood in 1854. The office was first kept by Graham Lee, who held it till 1869, when it was moved to Hamlet, and Josiah Candor appointed postmaster. He has since continued to hold the office without cessation.

The Presbyterian church of Hamlet was organized in 1870. Previous to the organization here the members of this faith held their membership in the societies of the surrounding country, the greater part at Millersburg. The first members that constituted the church were thirty-two in number. The society was organized by Thomas M. Wilson, W. S. Dool, and T. R. Johnson. Previous to the organization they had preaching in the school-house one mile west of the village, but not regularly. Those present at the organization were: F. A. Sherer, moderator; William S. Dool, C. B. Bristol, Daniel Kelly, T. R. Johnson, and William W. Morehead. The elders were: Thomas Candor and J. M. Gilmore. Of the thirty-two members who constituted the organization in the beginning, fifteen were dismissed from the society at Edgington Mills, Rock Island county; thirteen from the Millersburg society; the remaining four were not members of any particular society here at that time. The first elders appointed were: Cornelius Swartwout, J. S. Gilmore, and John Montgomery. The present elders are: William H. Wheaton, D. M. Candor, and John Montgomery. The present membership is eighty-five. The society has a very neat frame church, 36×50, erected at a cost of \$3,000. Since its organization it has supported and kept in operation a live Sunday school. The ministers who have labored here are T. M. Wilson and H. W. Fisk, since the organization; the former from 1870 to 1872; the latter from 1873, and is at this time pastor of this charge. The membership of this society represents most of the first families in this community. This is the only church organization in the village.

There is another Presbyterian society in the township, south of Camp creek, known as the Perryton Presbyterian church society. This society was organized in 1871. The first meeting preliminary to the organization was held February 18 of the same year. It is connected

with the society at Hamlet. At the above meeting a committee was appointed, consisting of J. Harris, William Doak, and Cruser Gray, for the purpose of erecting a church-house. This committee located the church at Gingles' Corner, in conformity with the will of the members. The church is a neat, frame edifice, erected at a cost of \$2,100. It was dedicated in 1872, out of debt. The society at its organization numbered thirty communicants; but from various causes, over which the church has no control, it now numbers only twelve active members. Its pastors are the same as those of the Hamlet society. Previous to effecting the organization, the people of this faith held their meetings at the school-house near by, but like the members of the society at Hamlet, were members of the societies of the same faith at other places. The first members who constituted the society were Samuel and Frank McHard, Mrs. Jane Martha McHard, Martha Blue, Sarah Doak, Mary J. and J. Harris, Mary Guffy, Mary A. Bristow, and William McHard, Sr. The society supports a very good Sunday school.

The only Baptist church in the township was located in 1871, near where the Methodist Episcopal church now stands. It was organized in 1869. Almost from the first settlement of the township the Baptist people were represented, but built no church-house; they held their meetings in private houses and school-houses, and held their membership principally at Edgington, in Rock Island county. Their first and only church building in the township was a frame, erected in 1869, two and a half miles east of Hamlet, where it held its meetings till 1879, when the society moved its building to Reynolds, Rock Island county, where the members of the society now hold their membership. The first minister of the society in Perryton township was John Titterington. The cost of the church as erected in Perryton township was \$3,000; size, 30×38. It always supported a live Sunday school in connection with the church.

The Methodist Episcopal church, like the Presbyterian, came with the first settlers. They held their meetings in the pioneer days at private houses, and later at the school-house till 1869, when they built their present church-house two miles east of Hamlet. It cost \$2,100, and in size is 30×44. At the time it was erected the society numbered thirty-six communicants, now numbers twelve. It has at various times lost many valuable members by removals, but the greatest loss was caused by the organization of a like society at Reynolds. The building committee were H. Ketzel, S. Honeycut and Holiday. The present pastor is Rev. J. Small; class leader, Albion Nichols; trustees,



H. Ketzel, George Hauck, and Thomas Vannatta. Among its members have been and are many influential and prosperous citizens of Perryton.

Among the organizations of Perryton township, none are more deserving of mention than the Library Association of Hamlet. It was established in 1879, with a view of furnishing reading matter at a small cost to those who wished to invest in the enterprise. The first officers were: President, Graham Lee; Secretary, Edward Hollister. Mr. Lee still holds the office of president, W. C. Vandalsem is present active secretary. The first directors were: D. M. Candor, H. W. Fisk, and P. W. Dumbell. The present directors are: P. W. Dumbell, H. W. Fisk, Elisha Lee, D. M. Candor. Librarian, Dr. M. Criswell. The association requires an admission fee of one dollar to become a member of the society, and after that each member pays an annual fee of fifty cents, and has the use of any book in the library without further charge. The income, up to the present time, has been about \$205, much of which has been raised by entertainments. The library now contains 213 volumes, all of which have been selected with great care. It requires three of the directors to place a volume on its shelves. The association is in a prosperous condition.

The Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company was organized at Hamlet in 1878, under the insurance laws of Illinois. Josiah Candor and Graham Lee were the principal leaders in effecting the organization. The first officers of the company were: Graham Lee, president, and Josiah Candor, treasurer. The subscribed capital was \$62,046.65. The present board of directors is: Graham Lee (president), H. Ketzel (secretary), W. Wilmerton, J. I. Everett, G. D. Miller, David Mayhew, R. S. Montgomery, William Wait, J. B. McConnell, and G. Peate. The number of policies now out is 146, with an aggregate capital of \$304,720. The company, during its organization has not met with a single loss, hence their insurance during the time has cost them nothing. This has proved the best system of insurance to the farmer of Hamlet and vicinity ever adopted by them.

Township organization was effected in 1855. The first town-meeting was held in 1855, at Gingles' corners. Graham Lee was appointed moderator, and S. D. Trego made clerk. In 1856 Wm. McHard was made moderator, and S. D. Trego clerk of the meeting. At this meeting township organization was adopted and officers elected. The following is a list of all the officers elected to the present.

The justices of the peace of Perryton township, so far as we were able to make up the list from the county records, are as follows: Edward Burrall, elected April 30, 1838, and resigned April 6, 1839:



JACOB BEAR.





William Moore, elected June, 1842; Joseph G. Gilmore, 1847; Edward Burrall, 1847; C. G. Taylor, 1849; J. G. Gilmore, 1858; Lee Holister, 1858; Lee Holister, 1862; J. G. Gilmore, 1862; J. G. Gilmore, 1870; Lee Holister, 1870; J. G. Gilmore, 1874; Lee Holister, 1874; John Gingles, 1877; J. G. Gilmore, 1881.

Date of Election.	SUPERVISOR.	CLERK.	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR.
1856	Graham Lee.....	S. D. Trego .....	William McHard .....	J. C. Gilmore.
1857	Graham Lee.....	S. D. Trego .....	William McHard .....	J. G. Gilmore.
1858	J. C. Gilmore .....	S. D. Trego .....	William McHard .....	J. G. Gilmore.
1859	J. G. Gilmore .....	S. D. Trego .....	William McHard .....	William Clark.
1860	J. C. Gilmore .....	S. D. Trego .....	William McHard .....	William Clark.
1861	J. G. Gilmore .....	S. D. Trego .....	Aaron Thompson.....	William Clark.
1862	J. G. Gilmore .....	L. W. Hanes.....	Aaron Thompson.....	William Clark.
1863	William Doak.....	L. W. Hanes.....	William McHard .....	G. D. Crabs.
1864	William Doak.....	L. W. Hanes.....	H. J. Walter .....	G. D. Crabs.
1865	William Doak.....	H. J. Walter .....	Charles York.....	G. D. Crabs.
1866	L. V. Willitts .....	Theodore Guffy .....	Josiah Candor.....	William McHard.
1867	Thomas Love .....	J. M. Gaily .....	Meigs Wait .....	G. D. Crabs.
1868	Thomas Love .....	Frank McHard.....	G. D. Crabs .....	David Blue.
1869	G. D. Crabs .....	John Gingles .....	John Ball .....	J. R. Ball.
1870	William Doak.....	John Gingles .....	Lee Holister.....	C. McIntire.
1871	William Doak.....	C. C. Watters .....	Charles York.....	C. McIntire.
1872	William Doak.....	G. D. Walter.....	David Blue.....	C. B. Halstead.
1873	William Doak.....	H. J. Walter .....	David Blue.....	C. B. Halstead.
1874	G. D. Miller .....	John Gingles.....	Theodore Guffy .....	David Blue.
1875	G. D. Miller .....	L. Girton .....	D. Blue.....	A. J. Birrkett.
1876	D. M. Candor.....	L. Girton .....	D. Blue.....	L. Girton.
1877	William Doak.....	L. Girton .....	D. Blue.....	J. Hartman.
1878	William Doak.....	L. Girton .....	D. Blue.....	J. Hartman.
1879	William Doak.....	L. Girton .....	A. Kendall .....	J. McDonald.
1880	G. D. Miller .....	M. Criswell.....	J. G. Gilmore .....	George Harness.
1881	G. D. Miller .....	J. T. Hartman .....	A. Kendall .....	L. H. Cooper.
1882	G. D. Miller .....	G. F. Hartman.....	A. Kendall .....	J. G. Gilmore.

The census report of 1880 gives the population of Perryton township 987. The taxable property of 1881 was valued at \$367,134; the real estate at \$281,248; and personal property at \$85,886. In 1881 there was collected taxes for general state purposes and schools, \$2,091.60; county tax, \$987.61; town, \$191.61; road and bridge tax, \$396.66; bond tax, \$987.61; district school tax, \$2,250.28; dog tax, \$134.

Perryton township is located along the north line of the county, and is bounded on the north by Rock Island county, on the east by Pre-emption, south by Mercer, and west by Duncan. It is divided into two sections by Camp creek, which enters the township on the south half of section 24, and flows west across and out of the township on section 19. The country for some distance on either side of this creek is very broken; but both north and south Perryton is a fine farming country. In the neighborhood of Hamlet, the country cannot, for farming purposes, be excelled by any locality in the county. It is peopled by a well-to-do class of farmers, who pride themselves in having good improvements, and many of them have their farms so



beautified by fine buildings, groves and lawns, as to attract the attention of lovers of the beautiful. The farm of Graham Lee is the most beautiful farm in the township, and justly merits the title, "The Evergreen Home." There are a number of farms both north and south of Camp creek that need to be mentioned, but the owners names of most of them will be found in the biographical department of the township. The stock of the township in every particular will compare with that of every other section of the county.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

MEIGS WAIT is a native of Switzerland county, Indiana, born in 1826. His parents were Henry and Sophia (Wells) Wait, the former a native of Grand Isle county, Vermont, and served as a soldier in the war of 1812 at the battle of Plattsburg, and died February 9, 1882, at the age of eighty-nine years. His father, Gardiner Wait, grandfather of Meigs, was a native of Wales, and came to America at an early date and settled in Grand Isle county, Vermont, and served in the Continental army as a soldier, and died about the year 1788. Henry Wait, by this marriage with Sophia Wells, raised a family of eight children: William, Sarah, Ruth, Rhoda, Harriet, Jacob, Lucretia, Lavina (deceased). Meigs Wait was married in Switzerland county, Indiana, in 1856, to Caroline Robinson, of Indiana, daughter of Thomas and Mary Robinson, and emigrated to Effingham county, Illinois, in 1864, where they both died. Mr. Wait has by this marriage two children: Frank G. and Katie, whose mother died in 1862. In 1863 Mr. Wait was married a second time, to Miss Edith Clark, of Pennsylvania, born in 1842, and daughter of William and Mary Clark, both of Pennsylvania. They came to Mercer county in 1853, and located near New Boston, where they remained only a few months, when they moved to Perryton township. There they both died, the former in 1882, aged seventy-seven years; the later in 1875, aged sixty-six years, both members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a local preacher. By this marriage Mr. Wait has seven children: Harry, Ernest, Daisy, Bertie, Marion, Guy, and Mark. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has a beautiful and well improved farm of 400 acres, located at the north line of Mercer county, one mile west of Reynolds. He raises on his farm thoroughbred cattle, and feeds cattle for the market. His hogs are of the best breeds. He does the largest business in buying and shipping stock, especially cattle, of any man in Perryton township. The Wait family came here as early settlers. They are all well-to-do and highly respected citizens.

LEE HOLISTER is a native of Connecticut, born in Litchfield county in 1822, son of Horace and Sarah (Lee) Holister, both natives of Connecticut. His mother died in Connecticut in 1830, aged thirty-nine years. His father came to Macoupin county, Illinois, in 1864, where he died in 1866, aged seventy-five years. He was by vocation a farmer. He and wife were members of the Congregational church. Mr. Lee Holister was reared in Connecticut where he remained till he was twenty-four years old. He then came to Illinois and located in Peoria county where he remained till 1856, when he came to Mercer county and located where he now resides. He was married in 1847 to Esther Barker, of Greene county, New York, daughter of Charles and Armina (Smith) Barker, both of New York. They came to Peoria county, Illinois, in 1846, where they are yet residing; the former is now seventy-eight years old, the latter seventy-seven. Mr. Holister has by this marriage four children: Minnie, Edward, Clara, and Alice. He and wife and three children are members of the Presbyterian church at Hamlet. He has a well improved farm of eighty acres, one-fourth of a mile west of the village of Hamlet, and keeps a good grade of farm stock. He has held the office of justice for the past eighteen years.

GEORGE D. CRABS is a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, born December 11, 1824, and is a son of Philip and Sarah (Duffield) Crabs, both of Pennsylvania; his father of Westmoreland county, and mother of Cumberland county. They emigrated to Ohio with their parents, where they were married. The latter, Philip Crab's wife, died in Ohio in 1836, at the age of fifty-five years; the former came to Rock Island county in 1858, and died there in 1878, at the age of seventy-five years. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812, was wounded by the enemy in an engagement near Lake Erie; at another time by one of the guards who accidentally hit him while shooting at a pig a negro was trying to force across his beat. By trade he was a carpenter and joiner. His father was Abraham, born in 1767, and died February, 1836; his mother, Thankful Crabs, was born in August, 1775, and died in September, 1814. G. D. Crabs received a fair educational training in his boyhood. He was reared to the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed for a livelihood till 1859 when he located in Mercer county where he now resides, and engaged in farming. He emigrated with his family in 1844, from Ohio to Rock Island county, where he resided till he located in Perryton township. He was married July, 1850, to Sarah B. Hazlitt, of New York, who was born in 1827, and is the daughter of Alexander and Sarah (McKay) Hazlitt, both of New Jersey. They emigrated to Illinois in 1838, and located in Rock Island county in 1839, where the father died in 1849, at the age of eighty-two; the



mother in 1842, at the age of fifty-seven. Both were members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. Crabs have a family of seven children: Armenia, Ida, Elda, Sarah J., Emerson, Amy T., and Fay. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He has a well improved farm of 120 acres, located one mile west of the village of Hamlet. His stock, consisting of Norman and Morgan horses and short horn cattle, is of the best grades.

WILLIAM BRAIN, the subject of this life sketch, is a native of England, born in 1807, son of John and Sarah Brain, who were born and reared in their native country and there died. Our subject's father was a boatman. William Brain came to America in 1832, stopped for a time in Connecticut, then went to New York where he remained till 1834, when he returned to his native home. In 1843 he returned to New York, remained five years, came to Illinois and located where he now resides. By trade he is both wagonmaker and carpenter. He has been married twice, first to Elizabeth Sproson, of England, in 1832, by whom he has three children: Sarah A., Anna, and Elizabeth. The mother of these died in 1861. He was married again in 1862 to Mrs. Mary Halstead, formerly Miss Mary Cooper, and daughter of Thomas and Ann Cooper. She is a native of England. Mr. Brain has a fine farm of 240 acres, well improved and well stocked.

J. G. GILMORE's parents, Robert and Elizabeth Gilmore, came to Illinois with the pioneers and located in Warren county, eight miles northeast of Monmouth. The former was born in Chester county, the latter in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. They emigrated to Jefferson county, Ohio, with their parents, where they were married. He was a tanner by trade, but followed farming exclusively in Illinois. In 1820 he was a member of the Ohio legislature, and at one time was colonel of the state militia, and held the office of captain in the war of 1812. He and wife were members of the Presbyterian church. J. G. was born in 1819, in Jefferson county, Ohio, and came to Illinois with his parents when two years old. His early educational training was only such as the common schools of the pioneer districts of Illinois could furnish. He was reared on the farm. In 1839 he moved from Warren county to Mercer, where he has since resided, with the exception of two years. In 1840 he moved to Iowa, where he remained one year, when he moved to Missouri, and stayed one year and returned in 1842 to Mercer county. He was married in December, 1843, to Alletta A. Brady, native of Ohio, born in 1822, daughter of John and Elizabeth Brady. By this marriage he has nine children: Elenor (deceased), Mary, Elizabeth, Lydia, Ann E., Robert B., Arabella, Ephraim C., and Albert N. (deceased). He held the office of justice

for nineteen years without cessation, and was re-elected in 1881 for another term. He also filled the office of supervisor for two years, the office of collector two years, and assessor in 1880. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church at Hamlet. He has a farm of eighty-one acres, well improved and fairly stocked.

DAVID BOPES is a native of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, born in 1825, son of George and Sarah (Bauchard) Bopes. Both were natives of Pennsylvania. They were married in Pennsylvania and came to Illinois in 1836 and located in Rock Island county, near Edgington, when there were but few white settlers in that part of the country. The former died in 1838, at a comparatively early age; his wife afterward moved to Mercer county, where she died in 1843. She was a zealous christian and member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a man respected for his integrity and other good qualities. David Bopes came with his parents to Rock Island county where he resided till 1858, when he located where he now resides. His early educational training was that of the pioneer schools of his neighborhood. He has always been engaged in farming, the vocation of his father. In 1854 he married Miss Sarah E. Titterington, a native of Ross county, Ohio, born in 1836, daughter of James and E. (Beal) Titterington, the former a native of England, and came to America when he was ten years old; the latter born in Ross county, Ohio, and now a resident of Rock Island county, near Edgington. The former died in 1876, at the age of sixty-nine years. They located in Rock Island county in 1839. Mr. and Mrs. David Bopes have six children living. He crossed the plains to California in 1849, and returned in 1851. Mr. Bopes has a farm of 480 acres of as fine land as can be found in Mercer county. It is well improved with substantial buildings, and beautified by groves which he himself planted. He deals in cattle, feeding them for the market, and has his farm well stocked with good grades. He is a successful farmer.

Among the soldier citizens of Perryton township is C. B. HALSTEAD. He was born in New York in 1843, and son of Lewis M. and Mary J. (Cooper) Halstead. His father was a native of New York, and his mother of England. He first emigrated to Michigan in 1838, where he married and returned to New York. In 1851 he came to Mercer county and located where his son C. B. now resides. Here he died in 1854, at the age of forty-two. He served three years in the U. S. dragoons. The date of his discharge is 1836. C. B. Halstead came to Mercer county with his father when eight years old. His early education was limited to the common school. In 1861 he enlisted in company H, 61st Ill. Vol. Inf., and served two years and five months.



He was in the battles of Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, and Vicksburg, after which he was discharged on account of a wound received in the battle of Pea Ridge. He then returned home to the farm. He was married in 1870 to Elnora A. Neely, of Illinois, born in 1851, in Stark county, daughter of Joseph and Happy Neely, both of Pennsylvania. They came to Stark county with its early settlers and moved to Mercer county. The father is now living in Hamlet, this township; the mother died in 1879, at the age of 66. Mr. Halstead has four children: Dallas B., Riley E., L. Benjamin. He is a member of the masonic lodge at Edgington, Illinois. He has a farm of 120 acres, and keeps a good grade of farm stock.

Among the farmers and stock raisers of Perryton township is MICHAEL VETTER, located on the north line of the township. He is of German birth, born in Hesse Darmstadt in 1830, and is a son of Peter and Mary Vetter. They lived out their lives in their native country. The former died in 1862, aged sixty-four years; the later in 1852, aged fifty-three years. They were members of the Presbyterian church; by vocation they were farmers. Michael came to America and first located in New Jersey; then moved to New York; then to Rock Island county, where he remained till 1867, when he came to Mercer county, where he has a fine farm of 292 acres fairly improved and well stocked with good grades of cattle, sheep, hogs, and horses. He was married in 1856 to Elizabeth Vetter, of Germany, daughter of Lewis and Mary Vetter, both of Germany. The former died in Germany in 1840, at the age of forty-two; the latter came to America in 1855 and located in Rock Island county, now lives in Duncan township, and is in her seventy-seventh year. By this marriage Michael has eight children: Catharine, Barbara, Mary, Elizabeth, Lewis, Michael, John, and Willie. He and wife are members of the German Presbyterian church.

FREDERICK HARTMAN is a native of Germany, born in 1838, and is a son of Daniel and Barbary Hartman, both of Germany. They came to America in 1840; lived one year in Muscatine; then moved to Buffalo Prairie, Rock Island county, where they lived for thirty years, when they moved to Perryton township, where their son Frederick now lives. They were farmers, and members of the German Presbyterian church. The father died in 1866, aged seventy-eight years; the mother in 1848. Frederick came to Mercer county in 1867, where he now resides. He was reared to the business of farming. His literary education was wholly German and taught him in his mother tongue. He was married in 1861 to Barbary Schweobel, of Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, daughter of George and Margaret Schweobel, both of Germany. They emigrated to Rock Island county in 1849, and now live

with their daughter, Mrs. Frederick Hartman. They are both members of the German Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. Hartman have six children: Margaret, George, Thomas, John, Frederick, and Edward. He has a fine stock farm of 240 acres, well improved and well stocked. He and wife, like their parents, are members of the German Presbyterian church.

HAMLET COOPER (deceased) was one of the pioneer settlers of Perryton township. He located here in 1844. At that time there was but little else here than wild grass and wild animals. He emigrated from England, his native country, about 1832, to New York, and then to Michigan, where he resided six years, and then came to Perryton township, where he died in 1847, at the age of forty-one years. In 1829 he was married to Mary A. Clark, of England. They raised a family of eight children: Thomas, William H., Charlotte A., John H., Lester H., Philip, Enoch, and Robert (deceased). The last named enlisted in company A, 9th Ill. cavalry; he was mustered into the service in 1861 and served one year, when he died at Keokuk, Iowa. William H. and Lester H. enlisted in 1862, in company C, 102d Ill. Vol. Inf., and served till the close of the war. They were at the battle of Peach Tree creek, with Sherman on his march to the sea. Both were with the company all the time during their term of service. They passed through Richmond, to Washington, then to Chicago, where they were mustered out. William H. now resides in Kansas; Lester H. on the farm, three-fourths of a mile west of the village of Hamlet. Lester H. received only a moderate educational training; for several years he followed breaking prairie, when he took to the farm, but at present is engaged in keeping fine horses. He was married in 1876 to Mary J. Nichols, native of Illinois, daughter of Ephraim H. and Diana Nichols, both of Ohio. They came to Illinois in 1854 and located in Hancock county; they afterward came to Mercer county, but returned to Hancock county, where both are living.

DAVID H. COOPER was born in 1832, in the State of New York, and is a son of Levi and Lucy Cooper. He emigrated with his parents from New York when five years old, and came with his father in 1846 to Mercer county, where he has since resided. His early educational training was such as the pioneer schools of the west could furnish. He was reared to the business of farming, which he has since followed. He was married in 1855 to Sarah A. Brain, daughter of William and Betsey Brain. He has by this marriage seven children: Clara, Lucy, Lewis (deceased), Willie J., Fanny E., Ella, and Levi. His wife is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church. He resides on the farm of his father. He keeps a good grade of farm stock. In politics he is a republican.



H. N. ROSEBERRY is a native of New Jersey, born in 1827, son of Elijah and Nancy (Young) Roseberry, natives of New Jersey. The mother died in 1829; the father came to Perryton township, Mercer county, where he died in 1864, at the age of sixty-three years. He was a farmer and trader. H. N. came with his father to Mercer county in 1849, and located where he now resides. He was married in 1859, to Ann Killon, a native of England, born in 1842, who came to America with her god-father, in 1849. Her parents were James and Mary Killon, of whom the former died in 1869, the latter about 1842. Mr. and Mrs. Roseberry have seven children: Anna, Mary, Rebecca, Catharine, Hilda H., Stanton (the youngest not named). He has a fine farm of 190 acres located along the north line of the county in Perryton township. It is well improved and well stocked with good grades. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Since he settled in Mercer county he has seen the sea of tall, waving wild grass transformed into beautiful farms, ornamented with the maple and elm trees, and fine spacious barns and dwellings.

F. G. WAIT, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Indiana, born in 1857, son of Meigs and Caroline Wait. He was reared on the farm, and received a common school education. Except one year, which he spent in a store, he has followed the business of farming. He was married in 1881 to Lizzie Asquitt, of Illinois, born in 1860, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Webster) Asquitt, both of English birth, and emigrated to America about 1850. They are now residents of Reynolds, Rock Island county, Illinois. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a retired farmer. F. G. Wait has a well improved farm of eighty acres, located two and a half miles east of Hamlet. He keeps a good grade of stock.

A. KENDALL is a native of Chautauqua county, New York, born in 1836, son of Hazzard and Mary (Smith) Kendall, both of Connecticut. They emigrated to Pennsylvania, then to New York, then to Kane county, Illinois, then to Kendall county, Illinois, where the former now lives, his wife having died in 1838 in New York at the age of twenty-one years. Ebenezer Kendall, father of Hazzard Kendall, was a native of Scotland. The family, consisting of four brothers, came to America and settled, one in each of the following states (then colonies): Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, and Connecticut. Levi Smith, maternal grandfather of A. Kendall, was a native of Genesee county, New York, and moved to Mercer county in 1840, locating at Millersburg. A. Kendall was married in 1863 to Lucretia Wait, of Switzerland county, Indiana, born in 1863, and daughter of Henry and Sophia (Wells) Wait, both of Vermont. They came with their

parents to Xenia, Ohio, where they were married, then to Switzerland county, where their daughter was born; they then moved to Rock Island county, where the father died in 1882, at the age of eighty-nine. He had served as a soldier in the war of 1812. A. Kendall has four children: Lettie, Ida, Viola, and Meigs W. He has a farm of 212½ acres of fine farming land, fairly improved and well stocked with good grades of cattle, sheep and hogs.

CORNELIUS SWARTWOUT is a native of Saratoga county, New York, born in 1809, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Swartwout, both of New York state. His father died in 1839 at the age of fifty-six, and his mother in 1814. They were Baptist people. The advent of the family into America, consisting of three brothers, was during the colonial times. All of them settled in New York. The Swartwout family is of German descent. Cornelius received a common school education, such as could be obtained in the then almost pioneer schools of his boyhood days. He was taught the vocation of farming which he has always followed. He came to Illinois with his family in 1855 and located in Rock Island county, where he remained until 1860, when he came to Mercer county, where he now resides, three-fourths of a mile east of Hamlet, on his farm of 240 acres. He was married in 1839 to Lucinda Platt, a native of New York and daughter of Epenitis and Eve Platt, both of New York and now living in their native state. They have six children: James, Elizabeth, Sarah, John, William, and Henry. The eldest enlisted in the army in 1862, in company B, 126th Ill. Vol., and died in 1864. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

GRAHAM LEE, the subject of this sketch, was born January 22, 1821, and is the son of Elisha and Almyra (Seoville) Lee. His father is number 18,194 of the sixth generation of the family, Graham is number 18,249. Elisha Lee was born August 27, 1794. This history is recorded in the chronological history of the Strong family, volume II. The Lees trace their ancestry to John Lee, born in 1621, a native of Ipswich, England, who came to America in 1834, in the ship Francis, under the care of William Westwood. He located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he remained a short time when he moved to Hartford, Connecticut, where he married and became one of the permanent men of the settlement. Graham Lee was born on the same farm as was his father, and in the same house, where he was reared to the age of twelve, when his father moved to town and engaged in the mercantile business. Here Graham received a fair education and but for indisposition of his eyes would have begun a collegiate course. But notwithstanding his failure to enter college, a long life of continuous reading and careful observation has made him a well-posted man as to



practical knowledge concerning business and national needs. At the age of nineteen he went to New York to superintend the dairy farm of his father where he remained till he arrived at the age of twenty-one. In 1842 he went on a whaling voyage on the Pacific Coast with a view to improve his health, and spent two years on the coast of Alaska. In 1845 he, in company with his brother Henry, went to Ohio, purchased a flock of sheep, which they drove to Mercer county, Illinois, the same year, to what is now Perryton township. They laid a claim on section 9, which is now owned by him. He has made one of the most beautiful farms in Mercer county. In 1853 he was married to Mary A. Candor, born 1834, and a native of Union county, Pennsylvania. She came with her parents, Thomas and Margaret (Montgomery) Candor, to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1837. They had nine children, two of whom are living: Elisha, born in 1856, and Fanny, born September, 1865. Elisha was married December 18, 1881, to Lena Bopes, daughter of David Bopes. He carries on the business of the farm for his father. Mr. Lee was elected vice-president of the state board of agriculture in 1864, which position he held till 1870. At the organization of the institute for the feeble-minded of Illinois, he was appointed a member of the board, and with the exception of two years has held the position of president of the board since its organization. His wife, Mary A., died January 30, 1874. He was married a second time, to Anna S. Fisher, a native of Greene county, Pennsylvania, born March 1, 1847. They have one child, Graham, born February 24, 1880. Mr. Lee was raised a Congregationalist, but is now a member of the Presbyterian church at Hamlet.

Among the many successful farmers of Mercer county whose first capital to begin business with was muscle and will power is the subject of our sketch, JONATHAN GAUNT. He is a native of Lancashire county, England, and a son of James and Ann Gaunt. His father was a manufacturer of cotton, and died in 1845, at the age of fifty-six years. His mother came to America with Jonathan in 1851, and settled in Rock Island county, where she lived for ten years, when she moved to Mercer county, where she died in 1879, at the age of eighty years. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, her husband of the Episcopal church. Jonathan partly learned the trade of his father. He lived with his mother till he arrived at the age of twenty, when he went to work for himself. He was married in 1862 to Emily Damp, a native of New York, born in 1841, daughter of Michael and Eliza Damp. They have five children: Fernando, Cicero, Lorenzo, Eliza, and Albert. He has a fine stock farm of 520 acres, well improved and well stocked

with the best grades. He makes a specialty of raising horses to sell. In 1881 his sales of horses amounted to \$1,912.

JOHN MONTGOMERY is a descendant of one of the earliest pioneer families to locate in this part of the state. Among the pioneer preachers of northwestern Illinois is Rev. John Montgomery, his uncle. John Montgomery, our subject, is a native of Rock Island county, born in 1838. His parents were Daniel and Margaret S. Montgomery, both of Montour county, Pennsylvania. They emigrated from their native state to Edgington, Rock Island county, in 1836. They were of that class of Pennsylvania people who carried their morals with them. Both were devoted members of the Presbyterian church, and did much to establish a high degree of morality in the community where they resided. The father died in 1849, when he was fifty years old. The mother is now living in Milan, Rock Island county, and is in her seventy-third year. John Montgomery received a fair common school education, in addition to which he attended school at Dixon, Illinois, for some time. He was reared on the farm, which business he has always followed. He was married September, 1868, to Sarah J. Morris, native of Ohio, and daughter of William and Sarah Morris, both of Ohio, and members of the Methodist Episcopal church. By this marriage he has two children living: Maud M., born January 4, 1870, and Fanny L., September 6, 1871. His wife, Sarah J., died in 1874. He married again in 1876, Elizabeth Swartwout, born in 1842, a native of New York and a daughter of Cornelius and Lucinda Swartwout. By this second marriage he has three children: Lucinda, born March 6, 1877; James S., May 17, 1878; and William H., May 30, 1880. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church at Hamlet. He first came to Perryton township in 1868, then returned to his native county and remained till 1882, when he again came to Perryton township, and located on the old David Blue farm, where he owns 360 acres. He makes a specialty of fat cattle, in addition to which he does a good business in buying and shipping stock. He enlisted March, 1865, in company K, 68th Ill. Vol., and served one year.

The present practicing physician and druggist of Hamlet is Dr. M. CRISWELL, a native of Pennsylvania; was born in 1847, and is a son of Mathew and Sarah M. (Whitehill) Criswell, both of Pennsylvania. They emigrated to Rock Island county, Illinois, in 1855, where they remained till 1878, when they came to Mercer county, where she died in 1864, aged fifty-one years. The father and his son Mathew now reside in the village of Hamlet. Dr. Criswell received a good common school education. In the study of medicine he graduated at Jefferson medical college, Philadelphia, with the class of 1876. The same year



he located in Pre-emption township, where he remained till 1877, when he came to Hamlet. He was married in 1879 to Anna C. Huyett, of Illinois, native of Rock Island county, daughter of Dr. Joseph and Harriette L. Huyett, of Pennsylvania. They located in Milan, Rock Island county, about 1850, where he has since been engaged in the practice of medicine. Dr. Criswell has by this marriage one child, Edith. He has a paying practice.

The subject of this sketch JOSIAH CANDOR is a native of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, born in 1830, and is the son of Thomas and Margaret (Montgomery) Candor. He came to Mercer county with his parents. He was reared and educated on his father's farm in Ohio Grove township. In 1852 he went to Oregon and California, returned in 1854 and engaged in the mercantile business in Edgington, Rock Island county, where he remained till 1867, when he, in company with his brother, Capt. D. M. Candor, opened a store of general merchandise in Hamlet, in which business he continues. He has held the office of postmaster in Hamlet since 1868. He was married in 1857 to Mary E. Nichols, a native of Searsport, Maine. She was born in 1838 and is a daughter of Woodburn and Olive (Sleeper) Nichols, both of Maine, who came to Mercer county in 1859 and located in Perryton township. The mother now lives with her son Albion, one mile south of Hamlet. Mr. and Mrs. Candor have six children: Mary C., May, Robert A., Edwin H., Vessie O., and Herbert J. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He has a farm of 175 acres well improved, and adjoining Hamlet, on which he keeps a good grade of stock. He and his brother formerly dealt in stock buying and shipping. Previous to the building of the town of Reynolds, in Rock Island county, they carried on a trade in coal at Hamlet. He has been the school treasurer of the township for the past six years.

Capt. DANIEL M. CANDOR was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1836, and came with his parents, Thomas and Margaret (Montgomery) Candor, to Mercer county when he was one year old. His early education was such as he could get in the pioneer schools of his neighborhood, with a two years' course in the academy at Macomb, Illinois. He remained on the farm with his parents till of age. He went to Pike's Peak in 1859, stayed two years, returned in 1860, and enlisted in 1861, in company A, 30th Ill. Vol., and served a few days over four years. He first enlisted for three years, or during the war, and afterward veteranized at Vicksburg. He was in the following engagements: Belmont, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, the skirmishes around Shiloh, Brittin's Lane, Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Mississippi, Champion Hills, siege of Vicksburg, Kennesaw Mountain, sieges

of Atlanta, Savannah, Charleston, Raleigh, Bentonville, and Goldsborough, and then went to Washington by way of Richmond. He was commissioned captain of his company October 27, 1864, which commission he held till the company was mustered out of the service. Following the siege of Vicksburg he was promoted to the office of orderly sergeant from the office of commissary sergeant. At the battle of Atlanta he received a wound in the head. His parents located in Ohio Grove township when they came to Mercer county, and continued to reside there till 1856. His mother died in 1871, at the age of seventy-five years. His father, Thomas Candor, was married a second time, to Mary L. Boardman, and died in 1874, aged seventy-five years. Capt. Candor's parents, Margaret and Thomas, were both natives of Pennsylvania. Capt. Candor was married in 1868 to Emma J. Girton, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1842, and daughter of Baltis and Anna E. Girton, both of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. They came to Illinois in 1872, and now live in Hamlet. Mr. and Mrs. Candor have three children: Graham L., born in 1868, Thomas G., 1870, and Edna, in 1879. He has a well improved farm of 175 acres, adjoining Hamlet. He keeps a good grade of all kinds of stock. He and his brother Josiah were partners in the mercantile business in Hamlet from 1867 to 1881. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church at Hamlet.

Of those who look to Mercer county as their birth place and home is the subject of this sketch, W. C. VANDALSEM. He was born in 1850. His parents were John and Hannah M. Vandalsem, both of Ohio, and came to Mercer county with the early settlers with their parents. They were married here. His mother's family located as early as 1832 in Warren county, and afterward came to Mercer county and settled near Pope creek. W. C.'s parents emigrated to Kansas in 1879, where they yet remain. His father is now fifty-nine years old, his mother fifty-seven years. They are both members of the Presbyterian church. His father served in the army in company B, 83d Ill. Vol., and was out three years, lacking one month. He was in the second battle fought at Fort Donelson, after which his company was detailed to fight bushwhackers and guerillas. W. C. was educated in the common school and reared on the farm. He was married in 1876 to Deborah Dunn, native of Illinois, born in 1852, and daughter of John G. and Lydia (Winans) Dunn, the former of Ohio, the latter of Kentucky. Her father died in 1857, at the age of thirty-five, her mother in 1864, aged about forty-four years, a devoted christian and member of the Methodist Episcopal church. W. C. has by this marriage three children: Glenn, Charley, and Bessie. His wife's people came to Mercer



county in 1851, where they lived till their deaths. Mr. Vandalsem owns a fine farm of 128 acres, on which he keeps a high grade of stock.

GEORGE GRAY is a native of Switzerland county, Indiana, born in 1851, and is a son of Robert and Mary Gray, both of Indiana. His father came to Illinois in 1867, then went to Iowa, and now resides in Barton county, Missouri. His mother died in Indiana. George came first to Rock Island county, Illinois, and lived with his uncle for some time. His educational training was such as he could get in the common school. He began life for himself with nature's capital, energy and muscle. He now has a farm of 120 acres, located two miles southeast of Hamlet, in Perryton township. He keeps a good grade of stock. In 1879 he came to Mercer county and located. The same year he was married to Arabella Vandalsem, daughter of John and Hannah M. Vandalsem. They have one child, Grace.

Of those whom we may term old resident settlers of Perryton township is Mr. J. M. DUNN. He located here as early as 1851. He was born in the state of Kentucky in 1824. His parents were James and Sarah Dunn, both of whom were natives of the "corn cracker state." His father died in his native state in 1823, his mother emigrated with her family in 1831, to Clermont county, Ohio, where she died in 1852, at the age of sixty-two years. She was a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church. J. M. received only a meager education, such as the pioneer schools could give. He was reared a farmer, which business he has always followed. He returned to Ohio in 1855, where he was married to Elizabeth Huntington, born in 1826, and daughter of Abner and Rebecca Huntington, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively. The former died in 1877 at the good old age of seventy-seven years, the latter in 1876, aged seventy-one; both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Dunn has by this marriage seven children: James A., John H., Benjamin F., George W., Emma C., Thomas H., Sarah (deceased), and Rebecca (deceased). He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has a farm of 200 acres located one mile southeast of Hamlet, fairly improved.

W. W. BRADFORD, the subject of this life sketch is a native of Switzerland county, Indiana, born in 1830. His parents were Eli and Mary A. Bradford; the former of Canada, died March, 1876, at the age of seventy years; the latter of Pennsylvania, died in 1872, at the age of sixty-two years and ten months. They were pioneer settlers of Indiana, having located in Switzerland county while the Indians were yet plenty. They were people of high moral integrity and members of the Baptist church. W. W. came to Mercer county in 1855, and located

east of Hamlet, where A. Kindall now resides. He returned to Indiana the following year and was married, and again came to Illinois where he lived till 1869, when he went to Henry county, and there remained till 1877, when he came to Mercer where he yet resides. His wife was Miss Maria P. Stephens, a native of Indiana and daughter of Reuben and Mary Stephens, both of whom are natives of New York. They were early settlers of Switzerland county, Indiana. Her mother died in 1881 at the advanced age of eighty-two years. Her father still lives in Switzerland county, and is now ninety-three years old. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church and well respected by all with whom they dealt. By occupation they were farmers. Mr. and Mrs. Bradford have by this marriage eight children: Bruce, Perry (deceased), Eddy (deceased), Elijah (deceased), Ida, Guy S., and William F. He and wife are members of the Free Methodist church. He has a well improved stock farm of 320 acres.

ALFRED H. SMITH is a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1828, son of Charles and Margarette A. (Sungrain) Smith. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, and served in Capt. Brady's United States volunteers in the war of 1812. He died in 1828. His mother was a native of Philadelphia, born in 1804, and died in Mercer county in 1874. Her parents were, one from Switzerland, the other from Holland. She came to Mercer county in 1849. She was a member of the Presbyterian church. Alfred H. came to Mercer county with his mother. He was reared on the farm in which business he has continued. He was married in 1855 to Margaret Catchcart, a native of Pennsylvania, daughter of John and Mary (Brown) Catchcart, who came to Rock Island in 1850. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have ten children: Emma, Charles, Arthur, Adella, Dora, Retta, Harvey, Frederick, Charles, and Ulmer. He has a well improved farm of 240 acres and good grades of stock. He and wife are members of the Baptist church. His wife's father is a native of Pennsylvania, her mother of Donegal county, Ireland.

Among the early settlers of Perryton township who have passed from this seething and ever-changing world of mingled bliss and joy to that more quiet home above is JAMES GORMAN. He located in Perryton township in 1842, where he resided till his death, which occurred in 1877 in the seventy-seventh year of his age. He was born in Ireland in 1800 and came to America in 1837, locating in Pennsylvania, where he remained till 1842, when he emigrated to Illinois. By trade he was a linen weaver but farmed in America. He was married in Ireland to Sarah McAdam, daughter of Samuel and Sarah McAdam. James Gorman had by this marriage eight children: John (deceased), William, and James were born in Ireland; Andrew, Sarah, and Samuel



(deceased), were born in the "Quaker state;" Elizabeth and Nancy were born in Perryton township. James and William enlisted in the army, the former in company C, the latter in company G, 102d Ill. Vol.; both went out in 1862 and returned at the close of the war in 1868. James Gorman was a member of the Presbyterian church from early life till his death. His widow is a member of the same church. She now lives on the old homestead in the south half of Perryton township where they located in 1842. Sarah and Andrew remain at home to comfort her in her old age. She is now seventy-seven years old.

LEVI COOPER was born in Staffordshire, England, in 1810. His parents were Thomas and Ann (Hushley) Cooper, both of England. His father was born in Staffordshire, September 3, 1774, and died at Hamlet, October 10, 1857. His mother was born October 1, 1787, and died October 20, 1838. They were married in their native country and emigrated to America in 1832, and located in Canada, where they remained five years, when they moved to Lewis county, New York. In 1840 they emigrated to Michigan, and came to Illinois in 1846 and located in Perryton township, Mercer county, where they spent their declining years. Thomas Cooper was a tailor by trade. He and wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, both in England and America. Levi Cooper came to America with his father, and made the same removals. He was by trade a brick and tile maker, which business he followed in England, and in America one year, after which he engaged in the business of well-digging, till he located on the farm. This last business he pursued till he retired from active life. He now owns a farm of 320 acres second to none in location and quality in Perryton township. He was married in 1839 to Lucy Sproston, of England, who was born in 1807, and was the daughter of John and Sarah Sproston. They came to America in 1832, located in Canada, and emigrated to Perryton township, Mercer county, in 1866. Her father died at Hamlet, April 21, 1864, aged eighty-five years, her mother in England, about 1808. By this marriage Mr. Cooper has four children: David H., Sarah, Betsy E., and Hiram L. His wife, Lucy Sproston, died in 1876. He is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church; his wife was a member of the same. Since the death of his wife he has left his farm and now lives with his son-in-law, C. Taylor. His two sons live on his farm. Mr. Cooper is a man who is well respected by all who know him.

H. W. FISK, the subject of this sketch, a native of Orange county, New York, was born in 1833, and is the son of Jonathan and Susan (Williams) Fisk, both of Massachusetts. His father was a mechanic



*G. D. Miller*





and died in 1853 at the age of sixty-three; his mother died in 1841 at the age of fifty-one; both were members of the Presbyterian church. His father was one of the ruling elders in the society of which he was a member. The Fisk family is of Saxon descent. They came to America soon after the Mayflower brought the pilgrims to the rocky coast of Massachusetts. H. W. Fisk graduated at Waveland, Indiana, in the class of 1859. He then took up the profession of teaching, which he followed till 1864, when he was licensed to preach, by the Vincennes presbytery. In 1866 he was ordained a minister of the gospel by the same presbytery. He was appointed home missionary, in which position he labored till 1870, when he was called to the Buc- lah charge in Rock Island county where he remained two years. In 1872 he was called to the Hamlet charge, where he has since labored, preaching both at Hamlet and at the Perryton church four miles south. He was married in 1862 to Miss Mary Stevenson, a native of Pennsylvania, who was born in 1834, and is a daughter of John and Susan C. (Myres) Stevenson. Her father was a native of Ireland and her mother of Pennsylvania. Her mother died in 1857 at the age of forty-seven. Her father is now living and is in his seventy-second year. Both were devoted members of the Presbyterian church. Rev. Fisk has by this marriage three children: Charles E., Susan, and Emma.

MICHAEL DAMP, deceased, and subject of this sketch, was born in 1814, in New York, and was a son of Philip and Susan Damp, both of Germany. He came to Illinois about 1852, and first located at Milan, where he engaged in the milling business. In 1854 he went to Moline, where he run a mill, and paid the farmers of Rock Island county the first cash for wheat received in that section. Previous to his locating there they received their pay in goods. In 1858 he sold his mill at Moline and moved to Pope creek, where he again engaged in running a mill for about four years, when he quit the milling business and came to Perryton township and engaged in farming. This he followed till his death, which occurred in 1865. He was married to Eliza Kemp, of New York, who was born in 1818, and was a daughter of Michael and Sarah Kemp. Her parents were reared, educated, married, raised a family and died without emigrating from their native state. The Kemp family came to America from Germany, and located in New York in the early settlement of the state. By this marriage he had eight children: Edward C., Emily, Amos (deceased), Julia (deceased), Melonia (deceased), Charlotta (deceased), and Cicero R. Of the three living children two are at home. Emily, now Mrs. Gaunt, lives in the east part of Perryton township. Edward C. was married in 1875 to Eliza Johnson, who died in 1879, leaving three children: Arthur, Elmer,



and Isaac F. Cicero R. was born in 1860, and was married in December, 1881, to Julia A. Howard, of Illinois, born in 1858, and daughter of John and Mary Howard. Mr. Damp left his family in good circumstances. His widow now resides about two miles south of Hamlet. Few, if any farms in Perryton are better improved.

JAMES GINGLES, deceased, is justly entitled to the honor of being one of the pioneers of Perryton township. He came at the same time as did the McHards, in 1838, and settled south of Camp creek. He was a native of Pennsylvania, born in the year 1801, in Columbia county, where he was reared and educated to the business of farming. He remained in his native state till 1838, the time of his emigration to Perryton township. He resided here till his death, which occurred when he was in his seventy-second year. He was married in 1822 to Elizabeth Lackard, of Pennsylvania, born in 1805, and daughter of Robert and Jane Lackard, both of Pennsylvania. James Gingles, by this marriage, raised a family of eight children: Martha, Jane, Elizabeth, Washington, Margaret, Harriet (deceased), John, and Clinda, all of whom are married except Washington, and he remains at home with his mother, caring for her in her old age. She still resides on the old homestead, where they located when they first came to Perryton township. To use the language of a friend of the family: "Mr. Gingles was energetic and industrious. His character for sobriety, honesty, and integrity, was above reproach. Coming to this country when it was in its infancy, he endured every privation and hardship incident to a new country in its early settlement; these he bore with manly fortitude and Christian resignation. His well matured opinions and advice were sought for and readily given to the more recent settler. In times when money was scarce he often lent a helping hand to those who were in need or distress, thus fulfilling the Christian maxim of doing good while we have time. His door was ever open to the wayfarer and traveler. No one in need was turned away without being recipients of his hospitality. During the last hours of his earthly existence he had the sweetest solace and consolation of human existence by being surrounded by the children of his love, whom he had nurtured in the way of religion and truth, thus depriving death of more than half its terror, and illustrating the truth of that beautiful stanza:

"Jesus can make a dying bed  
As soft as downy pillows are."

His preference in religion was that of the Presbyterian teaching. He and his wife so impressed their earnestness and faith in christianity upon their children, that they are all following in the footsteps of their parents.

Of the citizen soldiers now residents of Mercer county, whom the county claims as her own by birth and education, is J. B. FELTON. He was born in Millersburg township, in 1842, and is a son of David and Lucinda Felton. He has lived in Mercer county all his life except ten years. He received most of his education in the schools of Mercer county. In 1866 he was married to Charlotte A. Howe, daughter of L. B. Howe. She was born in 1847 in Mercer county. They have two children: Jenney F. and Clara E. He enlisted in the army in 1862, in Company G, 102d Ill. Vol., and served till June, 1865. He was in the battle at Resacca, where he was wounded. He was in the hospital at Nashville from May, 1863, till November, 1864. During the remainder of his term of service he was in numerous skirmishes. He has not yet recovered from his wound and draws a pension. He has a nicely improved farm of eighty acres.

ROBERT DOOL, a native of Ohio, was born in 1850, and is the son of Henry and Mary Dool, Ireland, who came to Ohio, where they remained for some time, when they came to Mercer county and located in Perryton township in 1853, where they resided till 1881, when they moved to Aledo to live a retired life and enjoy their declining years. Both are members of the Presbyterian church. Robert was reared on the farm and educated in the district school. He was married in 1873 to Therssa Hayes, daughter of Henderson and Olive Hayes, both of Pennsylvania, but afterward of Ohio, settling in that state in 1848. His mother died in 1852. His father is now living and a resident of Belmont county, Ohio. Mr. Dool has two children: Gertrude B. and Henry C. H. His wife's parents were members of the Presbyterian church, as are he and wife, and hold their membership at Millersburg. He has a fine farm of 234 acres, well improved, and keeps a good class of farm stock, and feeds cattle for the market.

GEORGE WALTER, the subject of this sketch, was a native of Pennsylvania and was born in 1812. He was a son of Henry and Elizabeth Walter, both of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, who emigrated to Columbia county, Pennsylvania, where they died. George was married in his native state in 1836, where he remained till he emigrated to Illinois and located in Perryton township in 1859, where he died in 1872 on his farm, at the age of sixty-one. His widow now resides on the old place. She is a member of the Presbyterian church. They had ten children: Charles C., Henry J., David M., George D., Sarah E. (deceased), Mary E. (deceased), Martha R., William A., Hannah J., and Samuel W. (deceased). The homestead farm consists of a quarter section, which is undivided between the heirs. Henry J. was born in Montour county, Pennsylvania, in 1841,



and came to Illinois with his parents and now lives with his mother on the old homestead. He enlisted in the army in 1861 and served till November, 1862, when he was wounded at Brittin's Lane, and discharged from the service. He belonged to company C, 30th Ill. Vol. Inf. He was in the battles of Belmont (Missouri), Fort Henry, and Fort Donelson, the siege of Corinth and Brittin's Lane. William A. was born in 1852 and resides on the old homestead with his mother. David M. enlisted in 1862 in company H, 84th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was transferred to the marine brigade, served three years, and now lives in Ringgold county, Iowa. George D. enlisted in company H, 84th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was transferred to the 21st Ill. Vol. Inf. He now lives in Burlington, Iowa.

WARNER CORNS, a native of Ohio, born 1821, is the son of Henry and Mary Corns, the former of Pennsylvania, the latter of Virginia. They emigrated to Ohio where they were married, and afterward came to Illinois in 1842, located in Rock Island county, where they remained one year. They came to Mercer county in 1843, and located where their son Warner now resides. The father died in 1880, aged eighty-three. The mother lives on the old homestead with her son Warner, and is now in her eighty-seventh year. Warner came to Illinois with his parents with whom he has always lived. He and his father together laid a claim on the farm where he now resides, and both improved the same. He enlisted in 1862 in company D, 33d Ill. Vol. Inf., and served three years. He was in the second battle of Fort Donelson and at Resacca. The remainder of his term of service the company was detailed to fight bush-whackers and guerillas. He was married in 1854 to Amelia Gingles, daughter of Robert and Catharine Gingles. They came to Mercer county in 1839 and located in Perryton township. The former died in 1875, at the age of seventy-six years; the latter in 1880, aged seventy-nine years. Mr. Corns has four children: Mary C. (now the widow of James Huffinan), Ellen M. and Thirza C. (twins). Ellen married Charles Fencedemancher and Thirza married Charles Snow, and Amanda is at home with her parents. Mr. C. has a farm of 120 acres and keeps a good grade of stock.

Among the prominent farmers and stock-raisers of Perryton township is G. D. MILLER. He was born in 1824 and is a native of Kentucky, and son of William and Elizabeth Miller, of Kentucky. His father died in his native state in 1832, at the age of thirty-two years. In 1833 his mother emigrated to Crawford county, Ohio (now Wyandot county), where G. D. was reared on the farm, receiving such educational instruction as the pioneer schools could furnish. His

mother died in 1870, at the age of sixty-five, on the old homestead in Ohio. His great-grandparents on his father's side came to America from across the sea: one from Germany, the other from Ireland. Mr. Miller came and located in Perryton township in 1852 where he now resides. Previous to his locating here he herded and fed cattle in the neighborhood of DeWitt county, this state, for several years. In 1852 he returned to Ohio where he was married to Sophia Brady, born in 1827, and daughter of Samuel and Sarah Brady, the former of whom died in Ohio in 1842, at the age of fifty-six years, and the latter in 1870, at the age of seventy years. Mr. Miller has ten children: Helen S., Minor D., Dow (deceased), Olive L., Calista, Sue, Emma, Iva M. (deceased), Clay, and Lonie. He has a fine stock farm of 700 acres located in the southeast quarter of Perryton township. He feeds and ships cattle and hogs. He raises shorthorns, draft horses, and the best grades of hogs and sheep. He is a member of the masonic lodge at Aledo.

Among the early settlers of Perryton township was Austin Wood, the father of our subject (W. A. Wood) and his family. He located in Perryton township as early as 1837, having come to Peoria county in 1836. W. A. Wood was born in 1820, in the state of New York. His parents, Austin and Louisa Wood, were natives of Connecticut. His father died in 1864, at the age of seventy-seven years; his mother in 1874, aged seventy-three years. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and highly respected by those who knew them. W. A. was reared on the farm. His early education was received at the common school. He has pursued the business of his father all his life. He owns a fine stock farm of 290 acres, fairly improved and well stocked. He was married in 1843 to Harriet S. Smith, of New York, daughter of Jesse Smith, who came to Mercer county in 1840. Mr. Wood has eight children: Saphrona, Walter, Louis, Burdick, Emerson, Charles, Bell, and Lena. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He lives in the south half of Perryton township, four and a half miles southeast of Hamlet.

The veteran pioneer, WILLIAM DOAK, of Mercer county, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1816, and was brought up on a farm. His education was received in the pioneer log cabin school-house, with its slab seats and desks. In the fall of 1837 he emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, first settling in Greene township, where he remained till the fall of 1839, when he removed to Perryton, where he permanently located on section 27, and actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, following the business successfully till the spring of 1882, when he gave up active labor and removed to Aledo, with a view



of spending his declining years in quiet rest. He was married May 19, 1846, to Sarah P., daughter of Dr. M. Farwell. She is a native of New Hampshire, and came with her parents to Mercer county in 1842 and settled in Pre-emption township. They are the parents of three children: Nancy J., now Mrs. William McHard, William E., now a resident of Keithsburg township, and Alvah J., who now lives on the old homestead farm in Perryton township. For many of the incidents related of the early settlement of Perryton township reference may be had to the Perryton township history. He and wife are pioneer members of the Presbyterian church as well as pioneer settlers. His son, Alvah A., was born in Perryton township in 1854. He was reared on the farm. His educational training was that of the district school and a few terms in the academy at Aledo. He was married in 1880 to Agnes Wallace, a native of Ohio, born in 1857, and a daughter of Joseph and Mary Wallace, both of Ohio, and came to Mercer county about 1860. A. J. Doak carries on the business of his father's farm. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

T. GUFFY is a native of Pennsylvania, and was born in 1829. He is the son of Alexander and Catharine Guffy, both of Pennsylvania. His father went to California in 1848, where he died in 1857, at the age of fifty-six years. His mother now lives in Pennsylvania and is in her seventy-ninth year. Both were members of the Lutheran church, but his mother is at the present a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Guffy was reared a mechanic, and came to Mercer county in 1855, where he engaged in farming, in which pursuit he is still occupied. He was married in 1857 to Margaret Gingles, daughter of James and Elizabeth Gingles. Mr. Guffy has by this marriage one child, Harriet C., who was married in 1881 to John C. Lanon, a native of Pennsylvania, and son of Daniel and Sarah Lanon. He came to Mercer county from Michigan. Mr. Guffy has a well-improved farm of sixty acres. His son-in-law lives with him and carries on the farm. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

The McHard family located in Perryton township in 1839. At that time there were but few settlers in this part of the country. Where William McHard located at the above-named date is now the finest part of Perryton township. In 1839 the surrounding country was a wild wilderness, over which the deer and wolves gamboled; the coo of the prairie chicken and the quack of the wild duck made the music in the balmy spring morning air. Among the names of the pioneers of Perryton township belongs the name of WILLIAM McHARD. He was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1810, son of Joseph and

Sarah (Adams) McHard, the former of Ireland, the latter of Scotland, both of whom died in Pennsylvania. William was brought up a wagonmaker. He was married in his native state in 1832, and came to Illinois seven years later, and located in Perryton township, where he engaged in farming, which pursuit he followed till his death, which occurred in 1870, at the age of sixty-three years. His wife died in 1867, at the age of fifty-six years. They were both persons of high moral integrity and members of the Presbyterian church. His son, William McHard, Jr., was born in 1842, and reared on the farm, receiving such educational instruction as the schools of his neighborhood could give. He was married in 1873 to Miss Nancy J. Doak, a native of Perryton township, born in 1845, and a daughter of William and Sarah P. Doak. By this marriage he has two children: Mary E., and Sarah. He has a fine stock farm of 330 acres, located in the south half of the township, a part of which belonged to the old homestead of his father. He keeps a good grade of stock, and makes a specialty of feeding cattle. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. Samuel McHard, son of William McHard, was born in 1833, is a native of Pennsylvania, and came to Perryton township with his father when six years old. He was reared on the farm and inured to all the privations of pioneer life. In 1862 he enlisted in the army, in company G, 102d Ill. Vol., served two years and nine months, one year of which time he held the office of corporal. He was in the following engagements: Resacca, Burnt Hickory, Marietta, Peach Tree creek, Atlanta, Savannah, and Raleigh, and numerous skirmishes. He was married in 1866 to Mary Richmond, native of Ohio, and daughter of Joseph and Susan Richmond. They came to Mercer county in 1853, and were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Samuel McHard has by this marriage six children: Franklin R., Susan L., Gertrude and Grace (twins), May, and William S. He and wife are members of the Perryton Presbyterian church. He has a farm of 200 acres, well improved and well stocked. He resides on the old homestead where his father settled in 1839.

#### EDUCATION.

CONTRIBUTED BY MISS AMANDA FRAZIER.

The subject of education is so interwoven with the growth and progress of all enlightened communities that a full history of any people at the present day would be incomplete which omitted some mention of their public schools and other institutions of learning. It is a matter of regret that many of the records of the earlier schools of Mercer county have been lost by the carelessness or recklessness of a



former county superintendent, as we are thus compelled to depend upon tradition, or the memories of the older settlers, for material from which to compile a sketch of our first school teachers and school-houses.

The original settlers of Mercer county were men of sterling worth, intelligent and enterprising, and when planting their homes on these wild prairies more than fifty years ago were not unmindful of the needs of their children; and we find that as soon as three or four cabins were erected in any given locality, some provision was at once made to furnish the young people with some sort of school privileges. Sometimes it was a small log cabin which furnished teacher and scholar shelter, and sometimes a small room or addition to one of the prairie cabins was all the room obtainable for school purposes.

It is no disparagement to the people of those early days to say that in some instances the teachers were of an order quite in keeping with the school-room, cheap and unsatisfactory. There were no professional teachers among the early pioneers; but now and then a young settler, or the older son in some family, would undertake for small pay to "keep" school during the winter, while some pioneer's daughter would fill the same office for the summer to half a dozen or half a score of pupils. We have in mind the case of one young lady, a settler's daughter, who taught one summer for fifty cents per week and boarded around among the patrons. There were but four families in the district, and but eight pupils enrolled. The education of the young lady spoken of was not at all complete, but then the requirements of that school were limited as to qualifications and advancement.

The first school taught in Mercer county was held in a small log cabin erected on the claim of Erastus Dennison, about two miles east of the town of New Boston, near the present home of Mr. C. Rader. The teacher was Abram Miller, and the time the summer of 1833. Mrs. Ephraim Gilmore, now of Aledo, was one of the pupils in this pioneer school for a few weeks. Mr. Miller was a prominent character in the early settlement of the county, having been one of the principal actors in the organization of the county and the first county clerk. Abe, as he was familiarly called, had a strong dislike for the restraints of close-fitting garments, and it was no uncommon thing to see him marching to and from school in warm weather barefoot, with loose shirt and flowing pantaloons. This first school was attended by an average of about ten scholars, the total enrollment for the season reaching only about a dozen. The next year (1834), as near as we can learn, the first regular school-house was erected in New Boston township, near the bluff, about three miles east of the present village of

New Boston, on the farm of William Willits. Abram Miller or Joshua Willits taught here in the winter of 1834-5. About the year 1835-6 George W. Julian, since a distinguished politician and member of congress from Indiana, wielded the birch in this, Mercer county's first regular school-house.

The territory now constituting the county of Mercer was stricken off from Warren and organized into a separate county in 1835, and soon after the organization was effected we find that John Long was appointed, April 13, 1835, by the county commissioners' court to the office of school commissioner. While the county thus early in its history provided herself with the proper official machinery for the organization of a more perfect school system, yet we find but very indifferent progress in the character of teachers or the modes of instruction for a number of years.

It appears that the school commissioner was also agent of the school lands, and the most of the reports from several of the earlier school commissioners pertained to the care and disposal of the school lands, and little or nothing relating to teachers or schools.

For nearly fifteen years after the appointment of Mr. Long, the school commissioner did not assume the duties of examiner of teachers. During these years the school board, consisting of the school trustees of the various precincts, were the board of examiners. These school trustees were not always elected on account of their educational qualifications, but rather for their sturdy business qualities, and for the further purpose of having them properly distributed over the precinct.

As a matter of course the examination day, under such circumstances, was an event in the career of the board which exhibited its dignified and ludicrous character, according to the particular qualifications of the members of the given board.

An incident connected with one of these examinations is related by a gentleman now living in the eastern portion of the county. Some thirty-five years ago, this gentleman, then a young man, just home from a medical college, was requested to be present on a certain day to hear the examination of a small class of teachers, and to assist in the exercises. He attended punctually at the time and place appointed, and found three candidates for certificates, one young lady and two young gentlemen. The three trustees, the regular school board, were also present, but not in a well organized condition for the duties before them.

After some preliminary conversations of a general character with the candidates, the board retired to organize for the contest, and after a short caucus among themselves, they deputed one of their number



to request the young doctor to join the caucus, which he readily consented to do. The young gentleman found the board to be composed of three sturdy and intelligent farmers, good, honest, capable men for all ordinary transactions, but honestly confessing their inability to perform the duties required of them as examiners. They could "read, write, and cipher," but then the law required the teacher to pass examination in geography and grammar, and these last branches of study were as Choctaw to them. At the request of the board the young doctor consented to conduct the examination, the board to hear the class and decide upon their qualifications. Hastily arranging a set of questions he began the examination, which was oral, except a few examples in written arithmetic. The board listened carefully to all the exercises, and when it was finished they again retired for consultation. After a short secret session the young doctor was again summoned in counsel, when one of the board acting as spokesman, said: "See here, we want you to go right straight through with this here thing. They all show a nice hand writin', and spell well enough and read and cipher fustrate, but then that gography and grammar is all Injun to us. You see we don't pretend to know anything about it, so you jist give us your honest opinion about the whole thing, and if you say they pass muster, why we will give them all their papers and let them bang away."

To return to the main narrative, John Long served as school commissioner until December 5, 1835, when William I. Nevius was appointed as his successor. Mr. Nevius was reappointed in 1837, and again in 1838 and 1839, serving until June 6, 1840, when Ephraim Gilmore received the appointment. In 1841 the office became elective, and Ephraim Gilmore, was again selected to fill the position at an election held in August, 1841, and was re-elected annually for five years, his last election occurring on August 3, 1845. The next to fill the office was Thomas Candor, who was chosen at the annual election on August 3, 1846. Mr. Candor served but one year when Benjamin D. Ellett was chosen his successor, August 5, 1847. From 1847 to 1865 the election for school commissioner was held bi-ennially, thereby giving the office a more permanent character. Mr. Ellett was succeeded by Tyler McWhorter, who was elected November 6, 1849, and again on November 4, 1851. Mr. McWhorter was the first school commissioner who undertook the examination of teachers in this county, and to his administration, extending over a period of four years, is due the first real advancement in the character of teachers, as regards qualifications and modes of instruction. He was careful and pains-taking in all his official acts and was especially watchful and thorough in his inquiries as to the fitness of candidates for certificates.

The scarcity of well-qualified teachers at that time forced him to grant certificates, in some instances, where the candidate got the benefit of a "reasonable doubt" as to their entire fitness for the high office of teacher, but many able educators were placed in charge of schools during his term of office. Among these we will mention the names of Simeon Smith, David Felton, Resin Kile and Harvey S. Senter.

After Mr. McWhorter comes John Ramsey, who was elected November 8, 1853, followed by Norman P. Brown, who was elected on November 6, 1855. Mr. Brown was a practical and competent teacher, but so far as we can learn, neither he nor Mr. Ramsey succeeded in advancing the character of the schools of the county beyond the point attained by Mr. McWhorter at the time of his retirement from the office in 1853. The successor of N. P. Brown was J. E. Harroun, who was elected November 6, 1857. The law had now clothed the commissioner with the full powers of superintendent and given him authority to visit schools. The personal visitation of schools gave to the new superintendent great advantages over his predecessors, as it enabled him to witness the every day work of the teacher in the school-room. It is not unfrequently the case that a candidate for teacher will pass with a high grade after a most thorough examination, and yet prove unable to impart instruction, or unfit to govern in the school-room. These faults or failures the visiting superintendent could detect and remedy, provided the visitations were made in the right spirit and conducted with proper care for the good of the people. The truth of history constrains us to say that the greatest good possible under the new order of things was not attained during the administration of several of the successors of Mr. Harroun. Too little practical instruction was imparted by the superintendent in these visitations, too much time was spent in the exhibitions of the proficiency of certain advanced classes, and in the making of fine speeches by the visiting official. The visitations, instead of securing the good to teachers and people as designed by the law makers, degenerated in some instances into the veriest routine, measured, we fear, more by the per diem allowed than by the benefits which should have accrued.

Mr. Harroun filled the office for two years, and, by constant visitations and courteous treatment of the teachers of the county, inspired them, not only with the desire to excel in their calling, but with that esprit de corps which should ever prevail among professional educators in our common schools.

It was during Mr. Harroun's administration that teacher's institutes were organized, and the central or county institute was first attempted. He was also the first to attempt the introduction of any form of school



apparatus in the common schools of our county, and although not always successful in convincing the patrons of their utility, he was enabled to scatter here and there a goodly number of these helps to study, giving an impulse to their use by explaining to teacher and pupil, in the school-room, the manner in which they should be employed.

Mr. Harroun was succeeded by Rev. James S. Poage, a prominent and deservedly popular Presbyterian minister, who was elected November 8, 1859, and who served for two years. Mr. Poage was a highly educated gentleman, a fluent speaker and a most exemplary gentleman, but he was not a practical teacher, and while he made a creditable superintendent he did not succeed in advancing the character of the schools to that extent for which his learning and high character gave promise at the time he was elected.

Amos T. Waterman was elected November 5, 1861, as the successor of Mr. Poage, and served for two years. Mr. Waterman had formerly been engaged in teaching, but was at the time of his service a young practicing attorney of more than ordinary brilliancy. His administration of the office was creditable to himself and serviceable to the educational interests of the people. His examinations were conducted with more than ordinary care, thus securing a better grade of teachers, and giving a new impetus toward a higher excellence in teaching.

Washington L. Campbell, the successor of Mr. Waterman, was elected November 6, 1863, and served for one term of two years, and was followed by Sylvanus B. Atwater, who was chosen at the election held November 7, 1865, being one of the first of a long line of county officials who have claimed the suffrages of the people of Mercer on account of their services in the late war. Mr. Atwater was a practical teacher of fair reputation before he entered the military service, and returning a few months before the election from his three years' service in the 27th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., after participating in all the battles, marches and victories in which that gallant regiment was engaged, he was promptly elected as county superintendent of schools for the term of four years, the term of the office having just been extended from two to four years. To Mr. Atwater the people of Mercer county owe a debt of gratitude for his heroic, but then most unpopular treatment of all school matters. He introduced a strict and searching system of examination of teachers, and insisted so strongly that his standard of fitness should be met that a large number of half-qualified teachers were either driven from the schools, or induced to re-enter school as students themselves for the purpose of improving their education, and

their places were filled by a higher and better grade of teachers. He was the first to attempt the task of expurging from the school-room the antiquated text-books of the grandfathers, and introducing in their stead a uniform system of books so graded as to meet the wants of the several pupils, thus enabling the teacher to separate his pupils into classes by grades of proficiency; in fact, establishing grades in many district schools, going so far in this direction that in several instances where the patrons refused to buy or order the purchase of new books, he furnished them out of his own private funds. Although partially successful in his efforts to secure a uniformity of text-books, there remained much to be done in this direction after his four years' struggle was ended by the expiration of his office. He labored assiduously to secure a black-board in every school-house, going so far as to carry his brush and slating into the remoter districts and painting the desired board with his own hands where the directors could not, or would not, get it done themselves. While Mr. Atwater won the hearty ill will of some would-be teachers and their friends by refusing certificates to persons who had taught under other superintendents, and refusing like favors to new candidates who failed to pass his examination, and while much discontent was engendered among the people in some localities on account of the increased expenses caused by his unceasing efforts to secure new books and apparatus, and advancement of wages consequent upon the weeding out of poor and cheap teachers, yet impartial history will compel the admission that Mr. Atwater did more to advance the educational interest, and to place the common schools upon a higher plane of excellence than any person who had preceded him in that office.

The successor of Mr. Atwater was Frederick Livingston, a graduate of Lombard college, of Galesburg, Illinois, and a teacher of some years' experience, who was elected November 2, 1869, and served for four years. His acknowledged learning, with a fair experience as a teacher, and courteous address, gave promise that in his election the schools of the county would be greatly benefited; but his four years' service was a great disappointment to his friends and a misfortune to himself. Lacking in administrative ability, he soon lost his hold upon the affections of the older teachers of the county, and the freedom with which he granted certificates to any and all applicants soon flooded the county with a new crop of teachers, many of whom were in no wise qualified for the duties of the school-room, thereby greatly impairing the standard of the schools generally throughout the county. During his administration many of the books and vouchers belonging to the office were lost or destroyed, including all the records of the school



lands, and nearly all books and papers pertaining to county school funds. His bondsmen made good such loss of the public funds as was proven to have been lost or misused while in his charge. Mr. Livingston was the first and only defaulter in this office in the history of the county. Mr. Livingston was the possessor of many qualities and graces calculated to win the confidence of the people and endear him to his friends, and we do not pen this sketch without a regret that one so liberally educated, so courteous and kind, and withal so well qualified for a useful life, should exhibit that lack of balance which caused the unfortunate miscarriage in his official acts.

[The following sketch of Miss Frazier's career as a teacher and county superintendent, is furnished us by a gentleman who is interested in education, and who has been long familiar with her work.—ED.]

During the administration of Mr. Livingston, our legislature enacted a law making women eligible for all school offices, and at the first election held after the passage of this law, to-wit, in November, 1873, Miss Amanda E. Frazier, of Mercer county, was one of the eleven ladies who were elected to the position of county superintendent of schools in Illinois. Miss Frazier was re-elected in November, 1877, and at the expiration of her second term of office, was unanimously appointed by the board of supervisors in December, 1881, to fill the vacancy then existing by reason of the recent amendment to the statutes changing the time of election for this and certain other county offices, from 1881 to 1882, and quadrennially thereafter. She is therefore filling the ninth year of her incumbency of that office, a fact which speaks in no uncertain terms of the confidence and trust which the people of the county continue to repose in her capacity and official integrity.

Miss Frazier has long been identified with the schools and school work of Mercer county, and deserves no small measure of praise for the earnest and well directed efforts she has expended to elevate the standard of public instruction in the county. Entering upon her career as a teacher, in 1862, after completing the academic course in Monmouth college, and while yet a mere girl, she developed a remarkable capacity for the government of pupils and for imparting instruction, and so complete was her success as teacher thus early in life, that during all the after years she gave to teaching she never was under the necessity of applying for a position, inasmuch as applications for her services came to her unsought. After teaching a few terms Miss Frazier concluded to more fully qualify herself for the profession which she had determined to follow, and with this view spent two years at the State Normal University at Bloomington, Illinois, and another

year at Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois, when she resumed her professional career as teacher in the capacity of assistant to the principal of the graded schools of Aledo, where she remained four years, and was tendered the position for another year, but an unsolicited call from a larger constituency constrained her to decline the position of teacher for that of county superintendent, to which she was chosen, as before stated, in November, 1873.

Miss Frazier entered upon her new work with a determination to labor for the interest and advancement of the schools thus placed under her charge, and her first steps in this direction consisted in the adoption of a rigid system of examination of her teachers. It at once became apparent that to obtain a certificate to teach it was necessary for the candidate to be well qualified in all the branches which the law requires to be taught. No half-way work would fill the standard she had fixed upon, and as a consequence many incompetent teachers were dropped off the roll. To show something of her work in this department, the records show that in a single year out of 388 applicants examined for certificates, 219 were rejected, and but 154 accepted. To assist such as were willing to work for the position of teacher, she re-organized the Teachers' Institute of the county, whose sessions were held during the school year at various points in the county, and early in her official career organized a normal drill, holding the sessions annually during the summer vacation and continuing four weeks. Securing two or three prominent educators from abroad to co-operate with her in these normal schools, the large classes annually in attendance were submitted to a thorough drill in all the branches required to be taught, and the best modes of teaching and government, with pronounced advantages to both the teachers and the schools. These teachers' meetings and drills have been marked features in her administration, and of their utility there can be no question.

Miss Frazier is a woman possessed of many qualities which are peculiarly fitting for one in the position she occupied. Thoroughly qualified for her duties by a liberal education and experience in teaching, earnest, conscientious, and careful in her work, courteous and patient in her intercourse with the young and inexperienced candidates for teachers, though firm and unyielding when occasion required, and withal possessed with a strong personal magnetism which attracts while it does not repel, she has succeeded in impressing upon the schools of the county during these eight and a half years of her official life, much of her strong individuality of character, and secured many changes in the manner of examining and employing teachers, in the methods of teaching and governing schools, and, in general, a marked



advancement toward a higher standard of education and instruction throughout the county.

The school lands of Mercer county came through two general acts of congress; the first setting aside section 16 for school purposes in each congressional township in all the states and territories containing public lands, and the second turning over certain low, wet, and partially submerged lands for a like purpose. By the original act there were fifteen sections, being one section in each of the fifteen townships, in all about 10,600 acres of very good lands available for school purposes. Some of these lands were among the best in the county for agricultural purposes, and the entire body of them were equal in native richness and availability for all agricultural and grazing purposes with the average lands in the county; and if it had been kept out of the market and held a few years longer, until the "congress lands" were disposed of, when the price of all wild lands advanced from \$5 to \$10 an acre, the several townships in the county might have realized sufficient from the sales of their several school sections to have assured them each a large and remunerative permanent fund. This, however, was not done, and the consequence is that these township funds are a mere skeleton of what they should and might have been, had a more far-seeing policy been adopted by the people and those having charge of these trusts. In those days the people were poor; there was then no adequate state fund as now; railroads, with their vitalizing influence, had not yet approached our borders; new settlers were dropping in but slowly, thus leaving the country but thinly populated, and making it a difficult matter, with the low price of all farm products, for those scattered neighbors to raise the means (as they were then compelled to do mainly from their own pockets) to defray the expense of a three-months' school in winter and two or three months in summer. To lighten their school expenses, and to secure for *themselves* some of the benefits from the lands donated by congress, the settlers of thirty years ago determined to dispose of these lands, and, in order to succeed, they were compelled to fix the schedule of prices at, or below, the price of congress land, and in some instances the price was very much below that of the government land. At these give-away prices, about twelve sections of this magnificent donation were disposed of during Mr. McWhorter's administration of the office of school commissioner from 1849 to 1851. To us of the present day the policy then pursued regarding the school lands appears short-sighted and wasteful, and while no school officer is justly chargeable with blame for the part he took in disposing of these lands at such low prices, it is a matter of sincere regret that the public sentiment of that day compelled the



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sacrifice of such a magnificent public trust, in order to secure for themselves the small proceeds obtained for that immediate present, when we realize that the paltry sums were obtained at the expense of a magnificent fund for their descendants in all time to come, had they but waited in patience a few years longer.

The swamp lands belonging to Mercer county are situated in the immediate vicinity of the Mississippi river, and embrace several thousand acres. This land is loaded with great abundance in all the elements of plant food, but being subject to overflow, is valuable mainly for grazing and meadows, and in seasons of very high waters much of it is not even valuable for these purposes. We have been unable to ascertain, even approximately, the acreage of these lands, as the reports of surveys were not in the proper office when we were there, but we find the people were in some hurry to get rid of these lands also, and that as early as 1857 the swamp land commissioner reported sales to the amount of \$8,194.75, and that up to 1865 the sum total of \$9,098.65 had been realized from the sales of these lands, and properly distributed to the several townships of the county, since which time there have been no further sales. There remain of these swamp lands 480 acres, situated in Eliza township, which have not been sold, and which are not situated far enough above low-water mark to make a promising investment.

The township funds vary in amount in the different townships, the maximum being \$2,910.90 in Keithsburg, and the minimum \$1,186.26 in Green. The total permanent township funds for the fifteen townships is \$29,918.70. The interest of these funds only is to be used for the annual expenditure for schools in the townships where the funds belong. The permanent county fund is \$2,168, which can never be diminished, the interest being annually distributed to the township treasurers together with the state fund.

From the one small pioneer log cabin of 1833, with its ten or twelve pupils and barefooted teacher, the school system of Mercer county has grown until the last log cabin has been abandoned, and four brick and 115 frame buildings, many of them stately and imposing structures, are required to accommodate the wants of our schools. During the last year 2,795 males and 2,587 females, in all 5,382 pupils, were enrolled, while 71 males and 161 females, a total of 232, were employed as teachers. Of the 119 school-houses nine are graded schools, with a total of thirty-five teachers.

When all the schools of the county are in session the least number of teachers required to carry on the work is 145; but the system, still too much in vogue in the country, of employing one teacher for the



winter and another for the summer, increases the number of teachers from 145 actually required to 232 actually employed. During the past fiscal year there was collected from all sources for school purposes in the county, \$53,698.43, and during the same period there was expended in payment of teachers \$34,219.11. Three new school-houses were erected during the past year, at a total cost for buildings and grounds of \$5,179.04.

In point of excellence the schools of Mercer county will compare favorably with those of the most favored counties in the state. In a large number of the ungraded schools all the branches required for a first grade certificate are taught with such a degree of thoroughness as to enable many of our young men and women to step at once from the condition of pupil to the position of teacher. Our graded schools are in a prosperous condition, and are gradually, but surely, improving in all that pertains to a thorough instruction in the common school branches, while a few of these schools give instruction in some of the higher branches belonging to an academical course. At the graded schools of Aledo and Viola, a well-chosen course of study has been adopted, and upon the completion of this course a certificate or diploma is conferred upon such pupils as pass examination with sufficiently high grade in all the studies prescribed. At the recent close of these schools, Aledo and Viola each conferred diplomas upon eight graduates.

In addition to our public schools the people of Mercer county have not been unmindful of a higher order of educational advantages, and hence from time to time during the earlier portion of our history attempts were made, most unsuccessful, to establish within our borders a collegiate institute. We find that as early as the year 1839 a charter was procured from the legislature for the "Millersburg Seminary of Learning." Millersburg was at that time the county seat, and we presume that the attempt to secure a college at that point was intended to be a means of retaining the seat of justice at that place. Adequate means for so large an undertaking were not within the reach of the projectors of this enterprize at so early a day, and the undertaking was a failure. Later, in 1857, coincident with the establishment of Aledo as the county seat, two colleges were projected, and a charter for the "Aledo Collegiate Institute" was procured February 16, 1857. One of these colleges never rose above the foundation of the proposed building. The other, acting under its charter, erected a rather imposing building which, though enclosed, was never finished throughout. Rev. Mr. Williams opened the first high school in the old court-house building in 1862, and after rooms were finished in the new college he trans-

ferred his classes to that building in the fall of 1863. After a struggle for existence against many difficulties he was succeeded by Prof. McKee in 1868. Prof. McKee after continuing the school for a couple of years abandoned the undertaking, as the building was at that time considered unsafe, and the Aledo collegiate building was torn down and the building material sold.

After Prof. McKee left, Prof. Henderson took up the work for some years, occupying the second story of the building known as Richey's store, and in this building Prof. Henderson was succeeded, in 1873, by Prof. J. R. Wylie, assisted by his brother, J. M. Wylie. After teaching one year in this building the Wylie brothers determined to procure better accommodations, and by the sale of scholarships they were enabled to purchase block 132 on Maple street, where they erected a two-story academy building, 22×44 feet, exclusive of hall and stairway. This beautiful site and neat little building with the two young energetic teachers, attracted 102 students the first year. In 1879, J. R. Wylie became sole proprietor, J. M. Wylie having gone into the ministry of the R. G. church. At the present time, June, 1882, the academy under J. R. Wylie is quite prosperous. It contains a valuable cabinet of geological and mineralogical specimens, many of which would do honor to any college, besides a good library and an abundance of school apparatus. The course of study in this academy embraces all the mathematics, including arithmetic, through plain and spherical trigonometry; an English course of one and a half years; drawing, book-keeping, physical geography, United States and ancient history, physiology; two terms in zoölogy, natural philosophy and astronomy; two years in latin or two years in German, elective. The above course requires three years for its completion. Over 500 students, mostly from Mercer county, have received more or less instruction in this institution. Some seventy teachers have been sent out, and twenty diplomas have been granted since 1877.

In closing this sketch it seems appropriate to make mention of a few of the old and tried teachers of the county, and such others as have, after teaching for a time, been elevated to positions of honor, profit or trust. Geo. W. Julian, who taught here in 1835-6, has since served long and faithfully as a member of congress. Harvey S. Senter, who was a teacher as far back as 1843, was afterward successively clerk of the circuit court, member of the state board of equalization and state senator. Warren Shed was a colonel commanding the 30th reg. Geo. P. Graham was a member of the legislature after serving successfully as teacher. Prof. Joseph McChesney, a teacher thirty-five years ago, was for some time assistant state geologist, and was twice



appointed, under Abraham Lincoln, as consul to Glasgow, Scotland, and was afterward chosen professor of national sciences in the Chicago university. B. F. Brock, subsequently district attorney, is now one of the leading lawyers of the county. J. K. Herbert, a teacher over twenty-five years ago, is a prominent lawyer in Washington, District of Columbia. N. P. Brown, J. E. Harroun, S. B. Atwater, and F. W. Livingston, were each chosen to the office of county superintendent of schools. C. S. Richey was for many years, and is at present, county surveyor. Rev. Mr. Jamieson, long a teacher, was afterward missionary to India. T. C. Swaford, a teacher of great success, was afterward elected city superintendent of the schools of Monmouth. A. U. Barler, E. H. Jamieson, J. A. Goding, J. T. Johnston, and Alex. Stevens were old and successful principals of graded schools. Besides these, Simeon Smith, David Felton, Resin Kile, Cyrus A. Ballard, William N. Graham, G. L. F. Robinson, William Miller, and Warren Biggart may be mentioned as old and successful teachers of a long and continued service in the county.

From the long list of lady teachers who have served in the county, it is a task of no small difficulty to select names for honorable mention without making the list too long for the purpose of this history. There are, however, a few who are pre-eminent, by reason of their long service, excellent methods of instruction, and unquestioned fitness and success.

Among those we will name Miss Hattie and Miss Emma Huntington, Miss Libbie Perkins, Miss Parney Harroun, Miss Mollie Walker, Miss Emma Stevens, Mrs. A. M. B. Young, Mrs. Melissa Flemming, Miss M. Jennie Marquis, Miss M. M. Burbank, Miss Maggie Clarke, Miss Tillie S. Frazier, Miss Mantie Henry, Miss Mary E. Wolfe, Miss Jo. H. Willits, Miss Abbie M. Burr, Miss Mattie M. Sloan, Miss Jennie Henderson, and Mrs. Irene Willits. Besides these there are a host of lady teachers of shorter experience, but abundantly qualified for their work and deserving the warmest commendation were this chapter not already extended beyond the limits at first designed by the author.

SIMEON P. SMITH.—Politically Mr. Smith was identified with the old whig party, but was a radical abolitionist in sentiment. When Fremont and Buchanan were the opposing candidates he was asked on election day "to go and vote for Fremont electors," but declined, saying, "No; I think I shall not vote to-day, but if I do it will be for Buchanan," giving as a reason that he was "opposed to any compromise with slavery," a thing the republican party seemed at that time

willing to do, and he thought "the people of this country need four years more of democratic rule before they get their eyes opened."

Mr. S. was exceedingly diffident in public, and never knowingly placed himself where there was the remotest chance of his being called upon for a speech. Happening in Chicago one time when there was a meeting of the leading teachers of the state, he attended, but knowing no one there he took a seat as far back as possible, "to see and not be seen." Some one, however, seemed not only to know him, but to know he was there, for upon the election of officers he was chosen as one of the vice-presidents, all of whom were requested to "come forward and take a seat on the rostrum." Mr. S. did not respond, and it was found that he had quietly slipped out of the hall. The honors were too much for him. While none present were more interested in the cause of education he could not bear the unsought honors thrust upon him, and in self-defense was forced to retire.

#### EIGHTY-FOURTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

This splendid regiment was raised in the summer of 1862. Louis H. Waters, of Macomb, formerly lieutenant colonel of the 28th Illinois, was asked by Gov. Yates to enlist one of four regiments required of Illinois under the president's call for 50,000 for a reserve force, and he promptly responded, addressing public meetings in Mercer, Henderson, Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, Schuyler, Brown and Adams counties, and enrolling volunteers. Beginning about the middle of June recruits were first sent to Camp Butler, Springfield, but in the latter part of July the rendezvous was transferred to Quincy.

In Mercer county John C. Pepper and Luther T. Ball, of Keithsburg, began late in July to raise a company. They employed a band, and in a short while had the men ready. On August 13th a mass meeting was held at Sugar Grove and company H was organized, Pepper being elected captain and Ball first lieutenant. The following day the company, having 105 men enrolled, assembled at Keithsburg, where it embarked on a steamer for Quincy. When the organization was completed Henry E. Abercrombie was chosen second lieutenant. The company was mustered into the service with ninety-three enlisted men.

Frederick Garternicht, of Oquawka, a German martinet, formerly lieutenant in the 28th Illinois, raised company G for this regiment. He began recruiting about the middle of June and was cordially assisted by his townsmen generally and by the following persons particularly: William H. Fuller and Russell W. Caswell, of Oquawka, the Rev. Dr. David McDill, of Biggsville, and Edward Ray, of Young



America (Kirkwood). As soon as enough were enrolled squad drilling was commenced at Oquawka. On Monday evening, July 28, the company was mustered in the court-house yard and briefly addressed by the Revs. Hanson, Rutledge, and McDill, the latter, after his remarks, presenting each volunteer a copy of the New Testament. Capt. Garternicht shortly after, having about fifty men, marched them to Sagetown, and there taking the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad went to Quincy, where he went into camp, and continued recruiting until he brought the number of his company up to ninety. As long as the command was at that city Capt. Garternicht was regimental drill-master. He was commissioned captain of his company, and his associate officers were W. H. Fuller, first lieutenant, and R. W. Caswell, second lieutenant. Lieut. Fuller was early detailed into the signal corps, and honorably discharged in May, 1864. Lieut. Caswell was promoted to adjutant. When the first lieutenantancy became vacant by the retirement of Fuller, in 1864, Charles Kaiser, who had been promoted after the organization of the company to corporal and then sergeant, was commissioned to take that place.

Company K was raised at Biggsville with unusual despatch, only a few days in the first part of August being required to secure over one hundred men. J. B. McGaw left his harvest in the field unstacked, and addressed himself with vigor to the work of raising the company, when the urgent necessities of the government were made known by the second call within little more than a month for 300,000 volunteers. His example of personal sacrifice and instant aid was followed in numerous cases. He was assisted at Biggsville by Dr. Alexander P. Nelson and Joseph Brown, and at Stringtown by Myron Mills, who brought from that place a squad of about twenty. On Tuesday, August 12, he started to Quincy with 104 men. The first three nights after their arrival they slept under a tree in their summer clothing. At this place the men balloted for officers, and elected McGaw captain, Nelson, first lieutenant, and Mills, second lieutenant. The company was mustered in with ninety enlisted soldiers.

About the middle of August the organization of the regiment was completed. Thomas Hamer was appointed lieutenant colonel, and Charles H. Morton, major. It was mustered into the United States service on the first of September, and at this rendezvous was uniformed and armed with Enfield rifled muskets. One month's pay was advanced and one-fourth of the \$100 bounty paid. On September 23d the regiment was put aboard the cars for Louisville, Kentucky, where it arrived the 26th, and was assigned to the tenth brigade, fourth division, the former commanded by Col. William Grose, and the latter

by Gen. Nelson. The other regiments composing the brigade were "old regiments," 36th Indiana, 23d Kentucky, 6th and 24th Ohio. Starting with the rest of the army in pursuit of Bragg, on October 1st, it did vigorous service and suffered bitter hardships on that disheartening campaign. It lay in hearing of the battle of Perrysville and chafed under a criminal restraint while struggling comrades were being slain in that unequal contest. Company G was detached at the time and took part in the engagement. The regiment went to Danville and Crab Orchard, and marched and counter-marched in that section, enduring what were great trials to fresh soldiers, for lack of food and rest and protection from snow and frosty and stormy weather. All the time they were near the enemy (Buell), doing him the favor to follow close enough to oblige his army to keep up in compact order while retiring leisurely from the state with the immense stores he had gathered. The 84th went to Mount Vernon and from there to Somerset. The marching was again hard and privation and suffering were great; cold rains and heavy snows occurred; men almost barefoot left bloody footprints; and scores went to the hospital. From Somerset the march was continued to Columbia, thence to Glasgow, and crossing into Tennessee moved to Gallatin and Silver Springs, and halted, at last, for rest and recuperation, at the close of the month, three miles southeast of Nashville. This campaign wrecked many a strong soldier. The historian of the regiment, in depicting its severities, says: "It deprived us of more men than any battle in which we were engaged, it swept many into an early grave, it ruined the health of hundreds, but those who did endure its hardships were inured to the rough life of a soldier, and were seldom afterward sick or sore from hard marching." The regiment now had 400 in line out of 951 sworn in at Quincy three months before.

Gen. Rosecrans had relieved Buell of the command of the army, and at once undertook the reorganization of the shattered forces. The brigade with which the 84th was connected became the third brigade, second division, twenty-first corps. The division was commanded by Sooy Smith (who was relieved about the first of December by Gen. John M. Palmer), and the corps by Gen. Thomas L. Crittenden. On the 26th of December the army was put in motion, and soon struck the enemy, who was gradually pushed back on Murfreesboro. Having reached Stewart's creek on the 29th the command advanced in order of battle with light skirmishing, and at night had borne down within two miles of the town. The left of the 84th was on the pike. In front was a cotton-field, at the southeast corner of which was the Cowan "Burnt house." Next day there was nothing but skirmishing, and the front



line was occupied by other troops. Being relieved on Wednesday morning, 31st, the brigade went a short distance to the rear. During the night the rebels had outflanked the right of the army, and at daylight they commenced a furious attack and drove the union troops in great disorder down upon the center. About nine o'clock the fugitives began straggling back to the turnpike with alarming stories of the disaster to the right wing. The third brigade was promptly formed, facing west, and one hundred yards in front of the pike. The 6th and 24th Ohio were disposed on the first line in the thick cedar woods. The roar of the nearing conflict grew louder. Stragglers, panic-stricken, rushed back till their numbers swelled into a tide of retreat that defied all efforts to stop it. Nearer comes the sound, and all know that the victorious foe is pushing his advantage with all his strength. The storm is imminent; then it bursts upon the first line, and its fury is withstood briefly; the men break in confusion, and the entreaties and imprecations of officers are unavailing to check the retreat. Over the second line they pour and are formed again about forty rods in the rear. Now comes the test of the 84th, the 23d Kentucky, and the 36th Indiana. A ledge of rock behind which they lie gives them partial protection. Parson's and Cockerell's batteries are thundering behind them, throwing shell and grape shot over the men directly into the cedars in front, which are swarming with the exultant enemy. Soon the rebels come out of the cedars in full view and in point blank range, and instantly the line springs up with a wild shout and pours a deadly volley into them. For an hour each side faces a shower of bullets, and the air throbs with the detonations of the union artillery. The rebels, repulsed, finally take cover in the woods. During the time a regiment came up the pike from the south and directed a cross-fire upon the federal troops. Being temporarily relieved from pressure the brigade changed front forward by a left half wheel, and opened on some rebels lying in the cotton-field, probably those who had been cross-firing, and on a heavy force approaching at this time from the right. The regiments on the right of the 84th receive the enemy's enfilading fire with surprising fortitude, but at length, unable longer to endure it, fall back and leave this regiment exposed to the raking volleys from the rebels in the woods, who promptly envelop its flank. A desperate resistance was kept up in this place for an hour, and the foe had crept up within sixty yards. The right was now retired so as to face him squarely, but his steady advance in a semi-circle beginning soon to turn the left, the regiment had to be withdrawn to the ledge. Here the 84th maintained its ground with the utmost gallantry another hour, after all the other troops had retired

beyond the pike. At last the order was given and the left fell back; the right, not having heard the command, remained, and some confusion was the result. While in this last position, and during the time it was falling back across the railroad, the regiment suffered heavy loss, twenty-five being shot dead, besides a proportionately large number wounded. The rebels advanced, but were met by the troops holding the line of the railroad, and their movement was checked. The 84th then formed in front of the track, but were exposed in this place to a rebel battery, and so the men were marched from the field into the woods a mile away, and there stacked arms to give rest to this bleeding battalion, after six long hours of heroic fighting and sacrifice.

New Year witnessed a comparative cessation of hostilities. On the 2d, Van Cleve's division was thrown across the river, and the third brigade went over as a support. A slight breastwork of logs was made. Van Cleve received a sudden and vehement attack from Breckenridge, and his division was driven back pell-mell. The rebels followed in splendid style, confident of easy victory; but the 84th and the 6th Ohio, together with other troops, held their fire till they were within three hundred yards, then rising with a deafening yell, poured into them a destructive volley, after which each soldier loaded and fired at will, keeping up a murderous fire which thinned their crowded columns. The designs of the enemy had been anticipated, and Gen. Rosecrans had massed fifty-eight guns on the opposite side of the river, and when the rebels reached the right place these opened with a salvo as if the universe had split, shaking the troubled hills and devouring the enemy with sickening destruction. The rebels faltered, and before they could break into full retreat the 84th and the 6th Ohio were over their works, charging with a slogan upon the reeling assailants. The rest of the brigade, Van Cleve's division, and some other troops which had been hurrying over, now came up in the same gallant fashion, retaking all the artillery that had been lost and one gun of the famous Washington battery belonging to the enemy. Rosecrans reported: "The firing was terrific and the havoc terrible." Bickham wrote: "The commander-in-chief hurled his batteries and his battalions together at the monstrous machines of Breckenridge, and destroyed them in forty minutes. Two thousand men or more, who had marched upon that field in haughty defiance, at three o'clock and forty minutes, were dead or mangled at four o'clock and thirty minutes." This engagement was decisive of the protracted contest and gave the union army Murfreesboro. Nothing could excel the patient fortitude and heroic conduct of the 84th throughout this memorable struggle, and it won merited encomiums from officers of high rank who were witnesses



of its splendid courage. Its whole loss was as follows: Killed, 33; severely wounded, 114; prisoners, 8. Thirty-one of the wounded died. Many not counted were slightly wounded. The regiment suffered thus terribly on that dreadful Wednesday. The loss of the whole army of 43,400 was 12,378.

After the battle the 84th lay in the vicinity of Murfreesboro, changing place occasionally, and doing the ordinary duty of scouting, foraging, guarding provision trains, and working on fortifications.

Early in February elections were held in the regiment to fill vacancies caused by casualties and resignations. Lieuts. Ball and Abercrombie, of company II, had been slain in the forefront of the battle, December 31, and now Private Peter McLain was voted first lieutenant, and Corporal J. N. White, second lieutenant.

May 12 the brigade moved to Cripple creek and lay there till June 24, when the forward movement was taken up for the possession of Tullahoma. "Upon the morning of the advance the rain commenced, and continued as if the very windows of heaven had been opened. For seventeen consecutive days the rain fell in remarkable quantity. No such stormy period had visited that country for twenty-six years past." So said the annalist of the army of the Cumberland. Crittenden "had seventeen miles to march, over a road that had no bottom, and it took him four days to get over it. The infantry waded through mud for miles, that was from one to three feet in depth. They had to dismount their pieces and take their batteries forward from highland to highland." So said Rosecrans recently (1882). The rebel army having retreated to Chattanooga, on July 8 this command went into regular camp near Manchester. Fatiguing work, toilsome marching, a scalding sun, and short rations were other features of this brief, but brilliant campaign, which might have been more complete in its results but for unfavorable weather and roads.

The advance on Chattanooga began on the 16th, and Crittenden's corps took the route across the mountains direct for that place. On the 25th the brigade (Grose's) reached the Sequatchie valley and camped near Dunlap, beneath the tall cliffs which look down from the west, and remained there till September 1. The march was then resumed down the valley, and during the evening and night of the 3d the division effected the passage of the Tennessee, and encamped at Shellmound. On the 6th it had entered Lookout valley. On the 9th, Gen. Wood having made a reconnoissance in force in the direction of Chattanooga and reported the enemy giving up the gateway between the river and Point Lookout, Grose's brigade climbed the mountain, drove off the rebel outposts, moved forward to Summerville, thence

down the mountain on the other side, rejoining the division below, which had now passed around the point, and moved out across Chattanooga valley toward Rossville, under orders to follow the enemy closely and watch his movements.

Let us return to trace those maneuvers which secured the entrance through this gateway and led to the battle in Chickamauga valley. Having reached the foot of the Cumberland mountains, various causes induced Gen. Rosecrans to delay a few days; but when ready to continue the advance by a *ruse de guerre* he caused Bragg to suppose that he intended to make the passage of the Tennessee above Chattanooga, and suddenly on the 29th began crossing the bulk of his army at Bridgeport, Caperton's ferry ten miles below, and Shellmound eight miles above. Thomas, with his corps, marched across the mountainous country, entering Lookout (or Wills') valley, and proceeded up to Cooper's and Stevens' gaps, occupied them on the 8th and 9th, and passed over Lookout mountain. McCook's corps moved on a parallel route to the right, going over Sand mountain, through Valleys' Head, and ascending Lookout at Winston's gap. All the cavalry, except what was employed in the feint above Chattanooga, was sent to the head of the valley, with instructions to cross over to Alpine and make a show of strong force in that neighborhood. McCook was to follow it to the summit, display his troops to the best advantage, send a brigade or division down the mountain to back up the cavalry while threatening Rome, so as to give the appearance of a large force. Crittenden had been reserved to cross the base of Lookout immediately under the Point and next the river, as already described. The demonstration on Bragg's rear forced him into the open field to fight the decisive battle which Rosecrans and his lieutenants knew would inevitably take place for the possession of Chattanooga. Discovering the flank movement the rebel general hastily evacuated the city on the 9th, and retreated to Lafayette, twenty-two miles south, covering his base, and holding a position near enough to his antagonist to take any sudden advantage. On the 11th Crittenden was ordered to Ringgold to feel forward for the enemy as far as Gordon's Mills. His report, as well as other information, left no doubt of the concentration of the rebel army at Lafayette to await re-inforcements, and Rosecrans learned with deep concern of Bragg's present attitude; especially now that he himself must despair of help from Burnside, who had been sent on a coöperative expedition from Kentucky into East Tennessee with instructions to join him, but who at this crisis "was hunting with 22,000 men at his back for Gen. Sam Jones who, with less than 6,000, was toling him off up into western Virginia." Rosecrans' main army



was dispersed from Ringgold to Alpine, a distance of fifty-eight miles by practicable wagon route, and sixty-five by that subsequently taken by McCook (certainly a precarious situation), and the supreme endeavor should be to concentrate and cover Chattanooga. The isolation of each corps was so perfect that the movement must necessarily be from the south, keeping in view the hold on the city. Crittenden could not move up the valley to Thomas without exposing Chattanooga and jeopardizing the army; the latter could not march to the assistance of McCook without leaving Crittenden at the mercy of Bragg; therefore all hope lay in the celerity of McCook, and the tardiness of Bragg. Recently (1882), Gen. Rosecrans said "this was the most anxious period of the whole campaign." He had indeed risked a staggering responsibility. Crittenden was immediately ordered to march without delay to Gordon's Mills and to communicate with Gen. Thomas. His troops were there the next day. Pressing orders were dispatched to McCook to come by the road along the top of the mountain with all possible haste and join Thomas; but acting on what he believed was reliable information that this route was impracticable, he disregarded that part of his orders, and starting at midnight retraced his way, through Winston's gap. On the 14th Gen. Crittenden was withdrawn to the southern extremity of Missionary ridge to avoid being cut off, and to communicate with Gen. Thomas, whose troops began to arrive the following day. Negley's division confronted two rebel divisions at Dry gap in Pigeon mountain, but declined battle after a brisk skirmish. Col. Wilder had encountered a large body at Ringgold. The enemy's activity and boldness portended early fighting. Would McCook come before the blow would fall? He was still far away, toiling over rugged hills, rough roads, and through narrow passes, but making all the while prodigious exertions and good progress. From Winston's gap he moved down to Stevens' gap, and then followed the road taken by Thomas. Four and a half days were spent in this circuitous march of forty-six miles. The summit route of seventeen miles would have consumed but a day and a half. This unfortunate but natural mistake cost the commanding general the choice of the battle field; and no doubt the loss of his justly high military reputation, though not of his position, for that was already fated by his unfortunate misunderstandings with the war department, inflamed by his own rash correspondence, invited by the weakness of Halleck, and welcomed by the vindictiveness of Stanton.

On the 17th the rebels attempted to cross the Chickamauga at Gordon's mills, but were prevented by Crittenden, who had returned the same day from the foot of the ridge, McCook having just arrived

on the right. At evening on the 18th mutterings of conflict on the left foretold battle on the morrow. The rebel general was detected in massing overwhelming numbers on that flank to turn or crush it, and then to interpose his army between Rosecrans and Chattanooga. To check this maneuver the union general advanced his line to the left during the night by moving Thomas' corps from the center, leaving its place to be filled by McCook's. The alignment from left to right by divisions was covered by Brannan, Baird, and Reynolds, of Thomas' corps; Palmer, Van Cleve, and Wood, of Crittenden's corps; and Davis and Sheridan, of McCook's corps, not yet established in position when the battle began on Saturday morning, the 19th. Negley's division, belonging to Thomas's corps, formed a defensive croquet at Owen's ford, farther to the right, and the cavalry was thrown forward on this flank to defend Missionary ridge. Johnson's division of McCook's corps was in reserve in rear of Thomas, and Crittenden's right held Gordon's mills. The reserve corps under Gordon Granger was lying at Rossville, four miles to the left and rear. Rosecrans' front was parallel to Chickamauga creek, extending from northeast to southwest, and lying diagonally across the Lafayette road leading to Chattanooga, with the left reaching nearly to the Ringgold road.

The night had been one of activity in the federal army in changing positions and forming lines. About ten o'clock the dropping fire of the skirmishers and the deep bass of the artillery announced the opening of the battle. Gen. Thomas had ordered a reconnoissance on the extreme left by Brannan's division, and Croxton's brigade encountered a strong detachment of the rebel Gen. Walker's corps in front and flank, and drove it in confusion over half a mile to a massed body concealed in the forest. The rebels fought savagely, and being reinforced by Cheatham's division, fell on the union troops with headlong weight. The whole division was at once engaged; its double lines struggled heroically to keep their places, but finally crumbled into disorder. The enemy, still advancing in deep columns, rolled up against Baird like a huge wave; and his deadly fire, though shattering their front lines, had no visible effect in checking the foe. Swept by the remorseless tempest, this division was unable to stem its wrathful course, and gave way. Johnson, advancing now from his reserve position, struck the enemy in flank. Palmer's division came about this time to succor the struggling left, and Brannan's and Baird's divisions having been reformed, Gen. Thomas ordered the line to advance. The movement was as unexpected to the rebels as it was irresistible. They tried in vain to stand; they poured desolating showers of bullets, grape-shot, and canister into the daring columns,



but onward those invincible divisions went like a billow of the ocean. With frantic exertions officers tried to restore order and establish new lines, but as often as that was done the torrent of union victory swept them away like driftwood. Thomas' battalions stopped only when satisfied with having driven the exultant and confident foe nearly a mile over the ground they had lost, and taken cannons, caissons, and everything else that the enemy in his flight had left. The account of a rebel writer says this "fight was one of great desperation," that the rebels "experienced fearful sacrifices," and that the union soldiers "pushed close upon the battery of the gallant Capt. Carnes and slew most of its horses and men," and the pieces "were therefore abandoned to the enemy." Opportunely for the rebels, Cleburn dashed up to the rescue of their endangered right and engaged Palmer's division with his usual impetuosity. Now the tumult drifts along the quaking earth. Heavy flanking columns crowd the right; Palmer is overlapped, and his line is in danger of being doubled up, when Van Cleve marches in to arrest the peril, but the dense battalions with which he grapples overcome him. Bragg is practicing his favorite plan of attack in commencing on one flank and hurling forward his divisions successively in search for a weak point, until the whole line is engaged. The tide of battle rolled heavily to the right, taking in Reynolds, who divided the pressure with Van Cleve, and covered his front with a terrific lead-storm; but his division was shortly sundered in twain as if a hurricane had torn through his ranks. Davis was ordered up at the critical moment; and though his men struggled with raging energy, he could not long withstand the rebel momentum of increasing numbers. He gave back slowly till Wood arrived to swell the furious combat, when the enemy recoiled with heavy loss. At three o'clock Sheridan was ordered to leave Lytle's brigade to hold Gordon's mills, and with the rest of his division to move to the assistance of Wood and Davis. He was on the ground not too soon to save the former from disaster. The heavy sound which moves toward the right, shaking the deep woods, tells that the center has caught the storm. Gen. Negley, who has been lying at Owen's ford all day, is ordered to march down to the Widow Glenn's to be in momentary readiness for action. He reported with his division at half-past four; and as soon as it became certain that the battle was going against the union arms in that quarter, his fresh veterans rushed upon the foe with ardor and drove him back steadily till darkness put an end to the fighting. Brannan had also been sent from the left, and at night took a position to the right of Reynolds.

The results of the day were substantial success. The federal army

had held its ground, and the rebel general was foiled. The union troops, outnumbered, had all been called into action except two brigades. The rebel army was reinforced by Buckner, recently from Knoxville; by a detachment from Johnson's army in Mississippi; and by another from Lee's army in Virginia. The battle-ground was heavy timber, so undergrown as to be an immense coppice. This was of great advantage to the rebels in massing and attacking, and of proportionate disadvantage to the federal side, allowing but small opportunity for the use of artillery. Every inch of ground was contested with obstinate valor. As often as one rebel line melted out of sight a fresh one took its place; but the union soldiers fought without respite, without hope of aid, aware of the momentous character of the struggle, and that if they won the stake it must be with a costly libation of blood. So they received the surge of rebel strength and fury with surly front, and when overwhelmed and forced to give ground did so with dogged reluctance.

By midnight the plans of the union commander for the morrow had been communicated to his corps commanders in a counsel at the Widow Glenn's house. Thomas was to maintain his present line, assisted by the divisions of Palmer and Johnson, with which he had been reinforced, and to hold Brannan in reserve. McCook, with the two divisions left him, was to close up to Thomas, with his right turned back to a strong position on Missionary ridge; while Crittenden, with his remaining divisions, was to be posted in reserve at the junction of Thomas and McCook. On the rebel side the army was divided into two wings; the right was given to Gen. Polk and the left to Gen. Longstreet, who had arrived with the rest of his corps at eleven o'clock that night. Polk was ordered to renew the battle at daylight, but owing to a disarrangement of his line he was prevented from making the attack until nearly nine o'clock. The morning opened sultry and oppressive. The fiery sky, as if it might reflect the bloody field below, was seen through a hazy, sulphurous canopy of battle-smoke, which enveloped hill, forest and glen, and the giants of war that lay among them. The union troops reposed on their arms, waiting for the first rude sound of conflict to disturb the glory of the Sabbath day. Between sun and sun what onsets shall rock the earth! what valor amaze the world and mark the bounds of human courage and endurance! Every man in those worn and battle-begrimed legions says mutely with his chieftain, this "day must be for the safety of the army and the possession of Chattanooga." The first move of the enemy was to turn the left flank to secure Rosecrans' line of retreat. Palmer was in the front, near the center, and Grose's brigade was ordered to the left to meet the enemy,



who was crawling around on the flank. The 84th retired from their barricade of logs and rails with a feeling of reluctance. Col. Waters had been the first to recommend the building of such a protection, and this regiment the first to begin the parapet. In moving to its new position it was first apprized of the presence of the enemy by a sharp volley from an ambuscade, which killed and wounded several. This was followed by rapid discharges, but in spite of the severe fire the brigade formed in line. But being at once charged upon by a greatly superior force, it was driven in such confusion that detachments were separated and did not find their proper places during the day. Soon a deafening shout rises along the rebel front, and the line dashes forward in a thundering charge that envelopes Thomas' position. The contending sides grapple in the herculean energies of despairing battle. An aid leaves Thomas' side and hurries off to Gen. Rosecrans, to ask that Negley may be sent speedily. Thomas had been promised the return of this division early in the morning, and the order had been given for its transfer, but from some cause had but just started to move when the staff officer galloped up. "There it goes," said Rosecrans, as at that instant it was seen in motion. In a few minutes another aid came flying from the left, saying that Gen. Thomas was hotly pressed and needed Brannan. "Tell Gen. Thomas our line is closing toward him, and to hold his ground at all hazards, and I will reinforce him, if necessary, with the entire army. Tell Gen. Brannan to obey Gen. Thomas' orders." Gen. Van Cleve, who has been lying behind Wood, is despatched in the same direction. The battle is increasing in fury. Negley, with his veterans at a swinging pace, is hurrying to the relief of the suffering left. Van Cleve follows rapidly. A cloud of smoke and perpetual fire roll from Thomas' solid front. Roaring batteries, double-shotted, pour the desolating iron into the frenzied foe, who is constantly replacing his dissolving ranks with fresh troops. Closer and more stubbornly they press, and deadlier grows the union fire. The line of conflict extends to the center. It is now eleven o'clock, and Longstreet assails the right fiercely. The rebels on Thomas' front, exhausted by their own tremendous exertions and frightful losses, fall back, at length, demoralized, out of the reach of the field guns. Smarting under this bloody and signal repulse, they close up their bleeding, ghastly ranks, revise their lines, strengthen them with reinforcements, and then the massive column is launched once more against the weakened line. In the meantime Gen. Thomas has ridden along the ranks, so that if it were necessary his presence should infuse new confidence, and his troops catch some of his own steadiness of character and lofty heroism. Maddened by the memory of their defeat, and



THOMAS CANDOR.  
(DECEASED)





thirsting to avenge it, they advance with remorseless vigor under cover of a terrific cannonade from their batteries. They meet again the same stern resistance and devouring fire which before strewed the ground with their dead. Right up they come till foeman looks foeman in eye, and the stormy lines interlock and and writhe in mortal embrace. The union troops, according to rebel authority, "withstood as long as human powers of endurance could bear up against such a pressure, then yielded and fell back." But not till two hours of raging slaughter told the story of their heroism. Retiring a little way a stand would be made till the courageous foe came and received full in his face that relentless fire which shriveled his wasting ranks. The batteries, changing from place to place, were served with great animation and accuracy. The enemy paused finally, and Gen. Thomas rested his right on Missionary ridge, covering the gap, his left on the Lafayette road, his center advanced, the line describing an arc of a circle. While this had been occurring, terrible work had been done on the right. The commanding general had guarded carefully against a gap in his front, but was notified that Brannan was out of line, leaving Reynolds' right exposed. The situation was not comprehended by Gen. Thomas' aid who brought the information. Brannan was in echelon, that is, in rear, with his right extending beyond Reynolds' right. Gen. Rosecrans promptly sent an order to Wood to close up on Reynolds. As Wood's left connected with Brannan he understood the order was for him to support Reynolds by withdrawing from the line and marching by the flank to his rear. Acting on this fatal mistake, without reporting to the commanding general for further instructions, he moved to the left, and so opened a wide breach. He was savagely attacked while executing this disastrous change, and his right brigade was severely handled. It is like a break in a levee. There is a wild rush of rebels into this gap. Then twelve cannon enter. Brannan's right is hurled back. Van Cleve, at this juncture, marching to the left, is struck full and fair in flank; two batteries at the same time moving the same way are driven through two of his brigades. Half of the division instantly crumbles to atoms and goes like chaff to Rossville. On the right of the gap are Davis and Sheridan. The division of the former, taken in front, flank and rear, completely disintegrates. The latter is overlapped on the right by Longstreet's mammoth line, now sweeping forward in a grand onslaught. Laibold's brigade is carried away with Davis. Scorning to fly, Sheridan, with his two remaining brigades moving toward Reynolds, hurls a forlorn column with convulsive desperation against the massive front of the shouting foe. One trial is enough; he is caught in flank; then his troops hurry past



the Dry valley, and by a circuit arrive at Rossville, from whence, at night, he leads them to the support of Thomas. Between the wrecking of Davis' and Sheridan's divisions, Lytle's brigade was shivered; the brave leader fell dead in the arms of an aid, and his horse dashed away with the straggling, panic-stricken throng. Generals McCook and Crittenden search in vain for the remnants of their commands, which are scattered in twos and threes, scarcely the semblance of a formation anywhere. Guns, caissons, horses, wagons, and a bewildered, cursing multitude of fugitives obstruct the pass through Missionary ridge. These brave officers sicken at the tumult, but cannot stay the reflux tide, and are borne along by it till they arrive in Chattanooga. The commanding general, ignorant of the extent of the disaster, issued a few necessary orders, and despatched his chief-of-staff, Gen. Garfield, to Gen. Thomas, to ascertain the situation of his command, and to communicate with him by telegraph at Chattanooga. Garfield performed the perilous journey over hills, through valleys and wild forests, heedless of lurking dangers, reached Thomas, and sent the grateful intelligence to his chief that the left wing was holding its ground, and would do so to the last. Rosecrans in the meantime returned to Chattanooga, "to give orders for the security of the pontoon-brigade at Battle creek and Bridgeport, and to make preliminary dispositions either to forward ammunition and supplies, should we hold our ground, or to withdraw the troops into good position."

Having routed the right of the union army, the eager foe, elated with that success, and confident of dashing the remainder in pieces, about one o'clock fell upon Thomas with remarkable force. The divisions of Baird, Johnson, Palmer, Reynolds, Brannan, and Wood, two brigades of Negley's division, and one of Van Cleve's were the troops left to hold the rebel army in check. The devoted union army was now assailed by more than three times its numbers. Kershaw assaulted Missionary Ridge in front and was fearfully repulsed. Finding this part of the line impregnable, heavy columns were projected against the flanks. The fierceness of the onsets, combined with the overwhelming weight of numbers, carried them back. Thomas' lines after that described nearly a complete circle, and Longstreet was in control of the main road to Chattanooga. An immense toil was closing around the stalwart hero. A sheet of deadly flame and fiery sleet encircled this last stronghold, while his own lines blazed with withering volleys that bespoke, under the circumstances, the loftiest moral defiance and grandeur. Undaunted, the union troops received the repeated and staggering assaults of the exasperated foe. It was not dismay that filled their hearts, but calm desperation. They stood with their backs

to the wall, and that wall was "the Rock of Chickamauga." The enemy, determined upon destroying the army, at half-past three found a low gap in the ridge, flanking Thomas' right and directly in his rear. Sanguine of a swift and crushing victory, they hurried into it in great numbers. "The moment was critical," says Rosecrans. Twenty minutes more, and our right would have been turned, our position taken in reverse, and, probably, the army routed. Struggling with grim valor at all points to beat back the rampant foe, Thomas could spare no troops for this new and appalling danger. For the first time in his life his countenance and manner betray emotions of distressing anxiety. He knows that Granger is at Rossville, three miles away; no time to send word; at best, three miles against twenty minutes. Nothing but the providence of God can save the army. Nervously, painfully his eye sweeps the horizon. A cloud of dust is rising. Doubtful whether it can be friend or foe, he exclaims to Capt. Johnson, of Negley's staff: "Find out what troops those are, moving upon me." Bringing his glass to his eye, he watches intently the approaching column. On that hangs the fate of the army. Who can tell how hope and fear fluctuate in that heart that is almost still! The seconds throb with conscious importance. A small object comes into view. His lips almost break out with thanksgiving; it is the battle-flag of Granger. One more chance for hope. All day long Granger had listened to the thunder on the left, and had marked its ebb and flow as it grew

"Nearer, clearer, deadlier than before";

had paced up and down uneasily, wondering why orders to march did not come, every minute straining his eye for the sight of a staff officer. It was an heroic occasion, and a hero was there. Something said: push for the front. "The God of battles held that forlorn hope of the union army in his hand." "With the instinct of a true soldier and general," he ordered his trained but mostly new soldiers to move instantly. Two miles down the road he came upon a small body of the enemy, but he "well knew that at that stage of the conflict the battle was not there." Leaving Col. Dan. C. McCook's brigade to take care of any force in that vicinity, he urged forward with pressing earnestness and reported to Gen. Thomas. "The Rock of Chickamauga" simply pointed out the right. The soldierly eye of Granger took in the perilous and astounding situation at a glance, "and quick as thought he directed his advance brigade upon the enemy." Gen. Steadman, inspired no less than Granger, with an enthusiastic *coup d'œil*, and worth at that moment a thousand men, seized a regimental color, and dashing to the head of the column, shouted the charge.



Language fails to describe the onslaught. As well as the leaders, every man is a giant. "Right on into the desolating fire they pressed, reckless of numbers and of death, with a loud and thrilling shout. Over the batteries, over the astounded battalions of Hindman they went in a wild wave. It was marvelous, the charge of those two immortal brigades," and not less glorious than the charge of the light brigade at Balaklava. The trampled earth is strewn with the harvest of war; the enemy is routed with great slaughter, and the stars and stripes are on the ridge. Renowned victory was wrung from the hands of the rebels, and, stung with disappointment, Longstreet's veterans returned in successive charges right up to the six guns planted in the gorge, fighting with the ferocity of despair. This was borne with firm courage by Granger's shouting soldiers, who sent them reeling back each time, torn and bleeding, with a wild slogan that vied with the sanguinary uproar. It was madness to lavish their superb battalions in hopeless frenzy and onset, and in vain the rebel generals broke column after column to pieces on this granite front. As the sun went down the last attempt was made on the invincible band. They had exhausted all their ammunition, even all that could be gathered from their fallen comrades, and it was with much solicitude that the preparations for the last vigorous assault were watched by these fearless men who had stood in the deadly breach for hours. Should the triumphant reward for all their bloody sacrifice be torn away at the last moment? They are coming now, and are so near that their muffled tread is plainly heard. The ringing command comes: "Give them the cold steel!" Springing forward with fixed bayonets and a piercing yell, they rush upon the heels of the foe, who, struck with consternation, has broken and is fleeing in the wildest disorder. Weakened by their desperate endeavors, the rebels give up this hopeless point after frightful carnage, and thankful relief comes to Granger's men, of whom a thousand, nearly a third of the number that went into the fight, either dead or wounded, lie stretched upon the field. Believing that the left had been weakened to reinforce the right, Bragg sent a column to attack in that quarter. Being informed of its approach, Gen. Thomas ordered Reynolds to move with his division to meet it, and pointing out the rebels, bade him "go in there." Facing about to save time, and moving by the rear rank, the battle-smoked and blood-stained warriors were given the order to charge. With bayonets lowered, they struck the double-quick, while a wild battle-shout sprang from their hoarse throats, and they pushed on over the enemy, taking more than a regiment prisoners. During the progress of all these exciting and decisive struggles a continuous battle had

raged from flank to flank, the enemy crowding with billowy front against the union line, assailing Wood and Brennan with scarcely less vehemence than Granger, but remitting his fury somewhat toward the left. The position was girdled by two lines; as often as one delivered its fire it would step back a few paces, lie down and load, then rising, step again to the front and fire. So ended the battle of Chickamauga.

The 20th of September had given us a Wellington in Gen. Thomas. In gratitude the people with one voice said of the modest warrior: "This is the rock of Chickamauga." Henceforth he ranked among the greatest generals of the war. It had been a day, too, when heroes sprang from the ground. Let it ever be *heroes' day*. Illustrious Granger! Gallant Steadman! Names forever bright on the scroll of their country's history.

The union loss in men was 15,851, one-third of the army; thirty-six guns, twenty caissons, 8,450 small arms, and 5,834 infantry accouterments. The loss in prisoners was about 5,500, of whom nearly one-half were wounded; against 2,003 captured. There were expended in the battle 2,650,000 rounds of musket cartridges and 7,325 rounds of cannon ammunition, being 12,675 rounds less of artillery, and 650,000 rounds more of musketry than at Stone River. Two divisions were routed and left the battlefield; seven held their ground with the final assistance of Granger.

During the night of the 20th Gen. Thomas having been directed by Gen. Rosecrans to act according to his judgment, withdrew to Rossville, where he offered the enemy battle all the following day, which was declined, and the next night he retired to Chattanooga.

We now allude briefly to the individual part of the 84th in this battle. On Saturday morning Grose's brigade was ordered to make a reconnoissance forward, but being outflanked, escaped capture by the slightest chance. Very soon it went to the left, when Palmer's division was transferred. There it fought that day, and the next morning built breastworks, as previously mentioned. When the brigade was sent out to reconnoiter on the flank and ran upon the enemy in ambush, the 84th, being driven into a heavy thicket, was separated into three pieces which were lost from one another until night. Capt. Ervin commanded one detachment and succeeded in joining the brigade; Capt. Higgins had another, and Col. Waters the third. Each bore its full share of the hard fighting. The loss was 11 killed, 77 severely wounded, and 12 missing. About fifty were slightly wounded and remained with the regiment. Company G lost fourteen out of thirty that went to battle.

The 84th continued its career of valiant service till the close of the



war, but space will not permit more than a cursory relation of its subsequently brilliant record. The regiment was shut up with the rest of the army in Chattanooga during the investment by Bragg. When the army was re-organized there, the third brigade, second division, twenty-first army corps, to which the 84th belonged, became the third brigade, first division, fourth corps, and so continued during the remainder of its active service. Gen. Palmer was soon called to the command of the 14th corps, and was succeeded by Gen. Cruft in command of the division.

On October 25th, just prior to the change of commanders, the division was ordered to cross the Tennessee, and moving over the mountains to Shellmound, re-crossed the river, when the third brigade was sent to Whiteside. On November 24th this division, with Geary's, of the 12th corps, fresh from the Army of the Potomac, and Osterhous', from the Army of the Tennessee, assaulted Lookout Mountain and drove the enemy in handsome style from that eternal stronghold. The 84th was on the extreme left of the line, and it was due to this fact that its loss was only three wounded, all of whom recovered. When the enemy's main line gave way the regiment swung rapidly forward, and in twenty minutes took more prisoners than there were men in its ranks, and for this success received the thanks of Gen. Hooker on the spot. Next day the stars and stripes floated from the summit of the mountain which had been a blazing citadel for weeks. The same day Hooker pushed across Chattanooga valley and ascended Missionary ridge at Rossville, striking the rebel left and rear, while Sherman was battering their right, and at the same hour that Thomas made the splendid assault on the center, and the entire rebel army was routed with immense loss of men and munitions of war. Having pursued to Ringgold, on the 29th the regiment, on its way back to camp at Whiteside, stopped on the battle-ground of Chickamauga and assisted in the sad but christian work of burying the remains of the union dead, which the rebels, with characteristic inhumanity, had left in large numbers to decompose above the soil.

A period of ordinary service followed until the Atlanta campaign. On May 4, 1864, the 4th corps concentrated at Catoosa Springs and awaited the arrival of the 23d corps, which formed on its left. On the 7th the two marched south, when the right of the 4th connected with the left of the 14th at Tunnell hill, from which the rebels had been dislodged that morning. From this time till the 13th the regiment was before Rocky Face ridge, an impregnable natural stronghold, skirmishing most of the while, and once making a charge and driving the rebels out of their rifle pits. The loss on the 9th was eleven killed

and wounded. The flank movement through Snake Creek gap, a pass through this ridge fifteen miles south, compelled the rebel army to fall back. The 84th advanced through Buzzard Roost gap, and passing Dalton, skirmished forward to Resacca, where it took part in the fighting on the 14th and 15th. On the 16th, the rebel army having retreated, the command went forward, skirmishing desultorily, sometimes severely, down as far as Cassville, which was reached on the 19th. The army rested till the 23d, then moved on Dallas. On the 25th Thomas' army found the enemy in strong force at New Hope Church; the following day it was arrayed for steady work, and from this time the regiment was in constant fighting for ten days. From the 7th to the 10th, the 84th was encamped three miles south of Ackworth; on the latter date the army moved forward to confront Johnson's intrenched line from Pine mountain to Kenesaw, and until the 18th the men were working their way up close to the enemy's breastworks by building successive lines of their own, under heavy fire, which did not relax day or night. After the 15th the contending sides were so close that all the firing was done from the main parapets. On the night of the 18th Johnson retired the flanks of his army, and next day the brigade was in advance feeling for the enemy. A part of the 84th was on the skirmish line and suffered severely, especially company G, which had two men killed and seven wounded. On the 21st the regiment had another killed and several more wounded. The rebel army retreated to the Chattahoochee on the night of July 2d, and the 84th followed in pursuit on the 3d, overtaking the enemy in the neighborhood of Smyrna camp-ground, when "they celebrated their fourth of July by a noisy but not desperate battle." On the 10th the 4th corps crossed the Chattahoochee, and after throwing up breastworks for use in case of need, rested till the 18th. Crossing Peach Tree creek on the 20th, the regiment advanced on the skirmish line, charged the rebel skirmishers and took all in their front prisoners. They moved their line forward 200 yards on the 21st, and were engaged nearly all day in sharp fighting. On the 22d, while the battle of Atlanta was in progress on the left, the 4th, 20th and 14th corps swung in upon Atlanta, closely investing the city on the north and northwest. On August 3d Capt. Dilworth, of company F, with sixty-five men from the regiment, one-third belonging to company K, made a brilliant sortie and captured all the skirmish posts in front of the brigade, including twenty-six prisoners, without the loss of a man. On the 5th a similar affair was planned by the brigade commander, and the skirmish line made an attempt to advance, but with ill success, and the 84th lost one killed and two severely wounded.



On the night of the 25th Gen. Sherman began his movement with the bulk of the army to strike and sever the West Point railroad south of Atlanta. This was reached on the 28th, and the next day was spent in destroying several miles of it; then on the 31st the Macon railroad was seized all the way from Rough and Ready to Jonesboro. At the last place Hardee's corps was fortified and made a sally against the 15th corps which was easily repulsed. The following day the destruction of the railroad was continued, and in the afternoon the 14th corps stormed Hardee's defenses and carried them with slight resistance, capturing a brigade and ten pieces. The setting in of night prevented the 4th corps from reaching the enemy's rear, which would have compelled his surrender. As it was he escaped that night, simultaneously with the evacuation of Atlanta by Hood. The 84th had one man killed and five wounded on this expedition; and from the beginning of the campaign twelve were killed and seventy wounded. Six of the latter died in hospital. It was estimated that the regiment built, from the time it encountered the enemy at Tunnel Hill, ten miles of breastworks.

The 84th encamped at the close of the campaign with the rest of the corps three miles southeast of Atlanta. When Hood started north to invade Tennessee, all the army except the 20th corps which was left to garrison the city and guard the bridges on the Chattahoochee, started in pursuit in the first week of October. The 4th corps marched to Chattanooga; from there it was transported by railroad to Athens, Alabama, where it awaited orders two days, and then marched north to Pulaski, Tennessee. Gen. Sherman, about this time, turned from the pursuit of Hood back to Atlanta to set out on the march to the sea coast, and Gen. Thomas was left to watch and oppose his old antagonist. In the latter part of November the rebel army was in motion directly for Nashville, and the 4th and 23d corps began immediately to fall back, either not able or not designing to keep much in advance of the enemy. On the 29th Columbia was abandoned, and while three divisions were moving toward Spring Hill, the rebels, by a forced march to cut them off, attacked the place which was defended by one division, but were repulsed. The heavy supply trains narrowly escaped capture. On the 30th the retiring army was concentrated at Franklin, posted behind hastily constructed breastworks on the south side of the town, the line in the form of a crescent, the flanks resting on the Harpeth river. About four o'clock in the afternoon Hood threw his army upon this position, the chief weight against the center, with terrific energy. His men went over the first line of works in a furious charge, and

pausing under a destructive fire long enough to organize for an assault on the second line, they advanced with blind impetuosity; but the reserves having been brought up they failed to make a lodgment. At five o'clock the union troops advanced to retake the works, and now occurred one of the most desperate encounters of the war. The soldiers stood up within arm's length of one another and fought like madmen with bayonets and clubbed muskets. This was continued till darkness ended the frightful combat, when Hood, having failed of his purpose to break the center, which would have been fatal to the whole, withdrew. Union loss, 1,500; rebel loss, 6,250. The first division was in a comparatively unexposed position, and not till the end of the fighting was the 84th on the front line, then it was deployed as skirmishers. Col. Waters and Adjutant Caswell were severely wounded, but afterward recovered; these were the only persons serving with the regiment who were injured. At night the march was continued toward Nashville, and early next morning the head of the weary, bloody column reached that city.

After two weeks of preparation Gen. Thomas was ready for the offensive, and on December 15th, moved against the enemy, turning his left and forcing back his whole line. The battle was continued next day, and the rebel army disastrously routed. Pursuit was made by Wilson's cavalry and the 4th corps. The 23d corps also went as far as Columbia. When the shattered and demoralized army was across the Tennessee, the end of the campaign was announced, and the troops went into winter quarters. This was the completest union victory of the war, not involving a surrender, for it practically destroyed the rebel army. In all these operations the 84th was with the foremost actors, and shared the honors of the striking achievements.

The 4th corps was cantoned near Huntsville, and this regiment was put on provost duty in the city. In March the corps was ordered to Knoxville, and on the 13th the first division was transferred by rail, the others following soon after. From there the command marched to Bull's gap, and was stationed six miles beyond, lying there till April 18th. On that day the troops were put on board the cars and sent to Nashville, where, on June 8, 1865, this war-worn regiment was mustered out of the service with 346 men out of 932 who had gone to the "greedy front of war" only thirty-two months before.

Company G had thirty men; all but five of these had been wounded. On the 9th the regiment started for Illinois, and arrived at Camp Butler, on the 12th. On the 16th it was paid off and disbanded.



## THE ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

"Tis midnight in the camp,  
 The tired soldiers sleep, and dream, perchance  
 Of home, perchance of conflicts past, and others  
 Coming on the morrow. Braves, sleep on !  
 Let the cool night winds soothe your slumbers deep,  
 That you may rise refreshed. Your country looks  
 To you, and such as you, to guard her honor  
 From traitors' foul contaminating touch.

Yet, one is vigilant ;  
 With measured tread he paces on his beat —  
 The midnight sentinel. The moonbeams play  
 Upon his burnished bayonet, and its rays  
 Fall gently on a calm, sweet, upturned face,  
 That smiles upon the soldier from its frame."

E. H. N. PATTERSON, 1862.

The war of the rebellion had been in progress something over a year when recruiting for the 102d regiment began ; but as more men enlisted from Mercer county in that organization than in any other, we assign it the largest space.

*Company C.*—Frank Shedd commenced enlisting men on August 5, 1862, and on the 21st had eighty-nine enrolled. The company assembled at Berlin (Swedona) on the 26th, and taking wagons, went by the way of Oxford and Galesburg to Knoxville, and were assigned quarters in Camp McMurtry on the fair grounds. Ninety-six men went into camp, but ninety-two, including officers, were all that were mustered in. Shedd was elected captain, Almond Shaw, first lieutenant, and Watson C. Trego, second lieutenant. Alfred H. Trego was appointed first or orderly sergeant, Byron Jordan, second sergeant, George W. Gregg, third sergeant, George W. Allen, fourth sergeant, and Sampson M. Tenny, fifth sergeant. The corporals were Isaac N. Roberts, S. F. Fleharty, Rodney C. Manning, Henry Bridgford, Jacob Clause, Brainard Vance, Phoenix R. Briggs, and John Lippincott.

*Company E.*—On August 7 a meeting was held at Brown's school-house in North Henderson township, at which Dan. W. Sedwick enlisted eighteen men. Thomas Likely, of the same township (now of Norwood), was present and stated that he had enrolled eight men, and proposed to unite with Sedwick, which was done. By the 14th they had eighty-four. On that day the men met at the same place and organized by electing Likely captain, Sedwick, first lieutenant, and T. G. Brown, second lieutenant. The following were the non-commissioned officers appointed: Sample B. Moore, first or orderly sergeant; John Allison, William J. Abdill, Jonathan E. Lafferty, and

Albert Bridger, sergeants; Thomas Simpson, Henry M. Carmichael, John Tidball, Lyman Bryant, Allen Dunn, Henry W. Mauck, Robert Godfrey, and John T. Morford, corporals. Some time in the last week of August Lieut. Sedwick started from Bridger's corners (now Suez) with thirty-two men, and going through Scott's grove, met Capt. Likely one mile south of that place with about the same number, from whence they proceeded in wagons through Galesburg to Knoxville, arriving there in the evening, where the rest of the company joined them.

*Company G.*—This company was raised by Joseph P. Wycoff, assisted by Isaac McManus. David Lloyd had begun a company, but as he did not make it up his recruits, eight or ten in number, came into Wycoff's. Enlistments for this company were commenced in Keithsburg on the 6th of August; on the 15th over one hundred were enrolled, and runners were sent out to notify the men to meet on the 17th to organize. One hundred and twenty assembled at the opera house and Wycoff was elected captain. On the 19th the company embarked on a steamer for Burlington, where it arrived at midnight. The hotels were full and the men slept that night in a livery stable. Next day they took the cars and reached Knoxville, going into barracks on the north side of the fair ground. The organization of the company was next completed, the choice for first lieutenant falling on Isaac McManus, and that of second lieutenant on William H. Bridgford. The non-commissioned officers were also elected by the company, Capt. Wycoff promising to appoint whomsoever the men should declare were their preference. They were Luke P. Blackburn, Aaron G. Henry, John C. Reynolds, John McHard, and Robert B. Seaton, sergeants; and Wesley Hunt, Lemuel S. Gruffy, Elisha J. Grandstaff, Andrew J. Douglas, Richard H. Cabeen, John G. Poague, George W. Thomas, and Andrew J. Campbell, corporals. Company G went into camp with 120, rank and file; but 101 was the maximum number allowed, and the excess were distributed among other companies.

*Company K.*—James M. Mannon, Sanderson H. Rodgers, and William A. Wilson raised this company in the month of August, and it was composed of men from the north part of the county, and chiefly from those residing in Eliza and Millersburg townships. It was organized in Aledo by the election of Mannon, captain, Rodgers, first lieutenant, and Wilson, second lieutenant. Late in the month the company went across the country by private conveyances to Knoxville, where the regiment was assembled and about ready to be organized. The original non-commissioned officers were: James Y. Merritt, orderly sergeant; L. Volney Willits, second sergeant (names of the



other sergeants unknown); and the following corporals: Peter Griffith, B. F. H. Reynolds, William Winders, J. E. Huston, Leander Officer, Eli Cook, Walter Smethers, and Allen Wilson.

*Other Companies.*—The foregoing companies belonged exclusively to Mercer county, if we except a very few in company C from Rock Island county. Company A was enlisted in the corners of Knox, Mercer, and Warren, and was credited to Knox, although of the eighty-eight enlisted soldiers forty-three were from North Henderson and six from Rivoli townships in this county. Capt. Roderick R. Harding, of Galesburg, who had served in the 17th Ill. reg. from May, 1861, to May, 1862, associated Levi F. Gentry, of North Henderson, with himself, and the two together raised the company. Harding became captain on the organization of the company, Gentry, first lieutenant, and Charles M. Barnett, of North Henderson, second lieutenant. The non-commissioned officers were: Robert W. Callaghan, Theodore H. Andrews, John Morrison, William Brown, and Adam N. Tate, sergeants; and William H. Black, Hugh French, Daniel B. Randall, Fielding E. Scott, John R. Holmes, Albert Talbot, Nealy Daggett, and George W. Miller, corporals.

Company B was raised in Knox and Warren; two enlistments were from Mercer.

Company D was raised and organized in Knox county, to which one-half of the men belonged. Sixteen were from Fulton county, fourteen from Warren, seven from Henry, six from Mercer, and a few from other places.

Company F was made up of Knox county men, with two from Mercer. Companies H and I belonged to the same county, but the latter had eight men from Henry.

*The Regiment.*—The 102d regiment was raised by Col. William McMurtry, of Knox county, and the companies, as fast as they arrived at Knoxville, were rendezvoused on the fair grounds, where there were ample and convenient barracks. This camp of organization was named McMurtry in honor of the venerable and enthusiastic colonel. The several companies assembled between the 20th of August and the close of the month, and when the organization took place Franklin C. Smith, captain of company I, was elected lieutenant-colonel, and James M. Mannon, captain of company K, major. On the 2d of September the regiment was mustered into the service of the United States 931 strong. The men were uniformed, furnished with blankets, and regularly drilled; and the transition to camp life had all the features of novelty until the rudiments of soldierly training were in course of easy mastery.

On the 22d the right wing was transferred by rail to Peoria, and next day the left followed. The regiment remained one week encamped on the beautiful plateau overlooking Peoria lake from the north, when orders came to move to the seat of war in Kentucky. Buell's army was intrenched around Louisville and Bragg was knocking at the gates of the city. Public apprehension was high, and the raw levies from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, were poured upon the "Kentucky shore" in immense numbers. The 30th of September dawned gloomily, but it found the regiment lively with hope and ardor, and before the morning was hardly passed it was in motion through the streets in a drizzling rain toward the depot of the Logansport, Peoria & Burlington railroad. Windows and balconies were crowded with old and young to get a view of the troops. Matronly women, total strangers, wiped their dimmed eyes as they watched the flower of the country's youth going to fields of blood and death. Next morning the regiment was in Logansport; in the course of the day it passed through Lafayette, and toward evening reached Indianapolis, where were seen the first warlike signs: artillery in park and paroled prisoners in squads. A night ride brought the command to Jeffersonville, where it disembarked before the beams of morning streaked the eastern sky. Arms for the men, French rifled muskets, which had been brought unboxed from Peoria, were distributed during the day, and inferior as they were it cannot be said the soldiers were not as proud of their guns as the traditional small boy of his new jackknife. Rumors of fighting across the river were soon afloat, and this was the first acquaintance with the "grapevine telegraph"—camp reports.

At one o'clock on the morning of the 3d, the long roll aroused the camp, and the men were ordered to prepare to march with three days' cooked rations. Very early the Ohio was crossed on an immense bridge constructed of flatboats, and the regiment marched into Louisville. Amidst the interested spectators on the street leading up from the river stood a tottering old man, whose thin white locks were the toys of the morning air. With uncovered head, and bony arms uplifted to heaven, he appeared like a silent supernatural prophet of the union. Without a spoken word, but in the most solemn and patriarchal manner did this patriotic Elijah call down upon the men pressing forward to the defense of the government God's blessing and protection.

The regiment was brigaded with the 105th Illinois and the 79th Ohio, and placed under the command of Brig. Gen. William T. Ward, of Kentucky, and attached to Gen. Dumont's division. Not long afterward the 70th Indiana and the 129th Illinois were added.



At four o'clock in the afternoon this new command began the march to Frankfort, a march whose toils and pains will never fade from the memories of the jaded and exhausted men who performed it. Only for the conditions was the distance great or the marching excessive. The weather was hot, the soldiers were overloaded, the country was suffering from extreme drouth, water was scarce, and parts of the pike were covered with a fine limestone dust that enveloped the column in a thick cloud. Haversacks were crowded with rations, cartridge boxes carried forty rounds, knapsacks contained extra clothing and blankets and other dispensable effects. Add to these a heavy musket, and the weight borne was too much for the endurance of nine-tenths of the soldiers in the field, old or new. To keep in ranks and march at a brisk pace encumbered with an unusual, ill-fitting, fretful load, was no ordinary hardship to raw recruits; and long afterward when the men had become enured to war-like service, they reviewed the trials of this first march with a shudder. Inhalations of the finely-powdered dust excited and greatly aggravated thirst, and under the circumstances these sufferings of the men were the most painful of the whole service, and were the entering wedge to subsequent disabilities which sent many a poor fellow home a miserable wreck and many another to his long account.

About midnight a small remnant of the command filed off into a swarded field fifteen miles from Louisville, and were told to encamp. The brigade was disorganized, and the soldiers, prostrated with fatigue, were scattered along the line of march for a distance of ten miles. The road was strewn with blankets and clothing thrown away with indifference and relief. We believe it was never explained why our commanders forged ahead with such folly; but the boys often jokingly charged it to that ever present factor, the double-barreled canteen. Probably orders had been given in Louisville for the brigade to march to a certain place that night. The 102d had not forgotten yet that Col. McMurtry declared at Knoxville his intention to "march us to glory or to death," and they could testify now that the promise was being religiously fulfilled, with the chances very much in favor of the alternative.

About all the men had straggled into camp by eleven o'clock next day, and then the march was renewed. Fifteen more tedious miles were drawn out and we encamped late at night in the neighborhood of Shelbyville, where we lay in a plowed field under the burning sun until the afternoon of the 6th. In rapid time we marched to a new camp, two miles east of Shelbyville. On the 8th we were again in motion, and the day was marked with the petty annoyances of starting and halting, and waiting in suspense, not knowing whether to sit or lie

down by the roadside or to stand and hold our heavy loads. Through it all the sun poured down his blistering rays. This was the worst day of any for dust; fine as flour, in places it was two inches deep, and verily we had "a cloud by day," which veiled every object from view a few yards in front. To get drinking water the soldiers were glad to brush away the heavy, green scum with which stagnant pools were mantled, and thousands of canteens were supplied with filthier water, but a little pennyroyal introduced through the nozzle overcame the unfragrant odor; and doubtless others were moved to the same thankfulness as the soldier who expressed his satisfaction with the water *because it was wet!* At nine at night, being suffered to bivouac, we gave ourselves up to the welcome embrace of mother earth, and stretched our aching limbs upon the soft soil. The hour of midnight made its hasty round, and brought with it orders to resume the advance. A march of six miles, and then we were in Frankfort, at the bridge across the Kentucky river, where our cavalry had a skirmish and a few of the men were on guard. Toiling three-fourths of a mile, perhaps a mile, up the long, weary ascent east of the town, we at last reached the top and threw ourselves upon the naked sward for rest, just as the gleams of dayspring began to gild the eastern horizon. At nine o'clock orders came to prepare for a forced march of forty-eight hours without knapsacks, and two days' rations were issued. What more "*forced*" than the experience of the last few days was needed? Happily, the order that would have put us in motion never came.

With the end of this, our first march, we drop the mass of details lest our space should be taken up before we discover the spires of Atlanta, or the music of the ocean falls upon our ears at Savannah.

At Frankfort the regiment was furnished with bell tents, drilling was continued, and standing at arms an hour or two in the morning before daybreak was practiced. On the evening of the 18th preparations were made for a forced march, and at midnight the brigade was called out and started for Lawrenceburg, sixteen miles distant. The object was to intercept the partisan John Morgan, who was retreating from Lexington before a federal force. The command halted by the way an hour and did not reach the destination till daylight, when it was found that the rebel chieftain had passed an hour and a half before. Marching back leisurely the troops reached their old quarters at seven in the evening, tired and foot-sore.

A painful incident of history followed. Dissatisfaction with Col. McMurtry was gaining rapidly, and the demand for his retirement was strong. We remember the hollow square, the stirring speech from



Gen. Ward counseling harmony and subordination, the demand of the colonel for a vote to ascertain the feeling of the regiment towards him, and we see the large majority step out of ranks, whereupon he announces his intention to resign. Whatever defects he may have had they were those of old age. He had served in the Black Hawk war and was familiar with the obsolete tactics. He did not address himself with the alacrity of a young man to mastering the new, and this may have detracted from his popularity. Perhaps he was regarded as responsible for the hard marching that had been done; if so, it was unjust. He was honest and terribly in earnest. In his care for the men and his intercourse with them he was less remote and more alive to their welfare than any other who ever commanded them. His influence went far in raising the regiment, and to this length, if no further, he served his country well. Sickness obliged him to go to the hospital, and from there he repaired to his home. The regiment saw no more of him except when he paid it a brief visit at Gallatin in February.

On the 26th of October the brigade broke camp and began the march to Bowling Green. The distance of 150 miles was accomplished in ten days. Toward the last the dust was very troublesome again, scarcely less so than on the first march, and when the soldiers camped at night they were unrecognizable. At Bacon Creek numbers were sent back to Louisville sick, while others were left to come on by rail.

While at Bowling Green Lieut.-Col. Smith was elected by the officers to the colonelcy, and Major Mannon rose to the next grade.

Gen. Rosecrans reviewed our division there, and on the 11th of November the brigade left its camp at Lost river, and on the second day arrived at Scottsville, county seat of Allen county. Continuing southward on the 25th the division marched in the direction of Gallatin, Tennessee, and camped that night at the Rock House. Arriving there the next evening a camp was laid out for the 102d west of the town. On the 12th of December the regiment moved into winter quarters at Fort Thomas, which was situated close to the depot, and which the brigade, working in reliefs by regiments, had been throwing up since its arrival. On the 13th companies I, K and G were detailed for patrol and provost duty in the town, and the next day were cantoned in brick buildings on the public square. Company C was put on duty at Station creek, three miles below Gallatin, where they spent the winter guarding the railroad bridge. On the 11th of February companies D and F and a part of A were ordered into the town to increase the provost force. About New Year a mounted squad, composed of a detail of two men from each company, was organized, and placed under the command of Sergeant Edward Courtney, of company I,



CAPT. DAN, W. SEDWICK .





making twenty-one altogether. This was kept scouting until spring, and did much hard, efficient service. On the 14th of March the several companies were relieved by a detail from the 105th Illinois, and were reunited in the old camp to finish and garrison Fort Thomas. The rainy, gloomy winter was over, the darkest period of the war passed. With the fresh breath of spring came new life and gladness. Drilling was resumed with great energy, and most encouraging improvements were made in the health, and spirits, and skill, and tactical knowledge of the men.

April 27 a detachment of 150 from the regiment was embarked on board the regular morning express train for Louisville, under the chief command of Col. B. J. Sweet, seconded by Col. Smith. Rebels were hovering near Franklin, twenty-seven miles above, and when that place was reached fifty soldiers were put off there in the belief that a skirmish would ensue. The train proceeded three or four miles farther, when it was stopped by a breach in the track, and a volley was received from a lot of rebel horsemen. The fire was instantly returned with deadly effect, and then the men sprang from the cars in pursuit, but the assailants disappeared in hot haste. Their loss was five killed and six wounded. Five of the 102d were wounded, two mortally. A little drummer boy on the train was wounded in the leg, which had to be amputated. This was the first baptism of fire.

June 1 the brigade left its encampment at Gallatin and was transported on the cars to Lavergne, fifteen miles south of Nashville; and next day the 102d marched to Stewart's creek, six miles farther south, and nine miles north of Murfreesboro. Companies E, K, and G were posted on the creek at the railroad crossing; company H was stationed at Overall's creek, adjacent to the Stone river battlefield; and company B at Smyrna. The right wing was encamped at a small earthwork surmounting an eminence on Stewart's creek and overlooking the crossing of the Nashville and Murfreesboro turnpike. When Gen. Rosecrans organized the Tullahoma campaign the dispersed forces at Nashville and elsewhere in the rear were formed into the reserve corps, under the command of Gen. Gordon Granger, who, at an early day, entrusted the protection of the railroad between Nashville and Murfreesboro exclusively to the 102d. Col. Smith was ordered to Lavergne with four companies, and, on August 19, companies C, E, G, and I marched to that place, while the other six were stationed at stockades along the railroad. Thus disposed the regiment was required to do much hard duty, and it could not have been more satisfactorily performed. In addition to furnishing patrols, and men for a great variety of service besides, the companies at Lavergne began in October



to press horses from the disloyal for the purpose of mounting themselves. Companies G and E were first mounted and equipped, next I, and then C; all of which was accomplished by the first week in November. A great deal of scouting was done in adjoining counties, and the service was fraught with just enough risk to make it fascinating. Exploits of these commands when hunting and chasing guerrillas increased the zest and excitement, and furnished not a little material for anecdote, and not a few thrilling personal adventures. By Christmas company B was mounted; and another was partly so, when removal of the regiment stopped the impressment of horses. Skillful management on the part of Col. Smith procured 225 of the breech-loading Spencer repeating rifles for these companies, and each man was provided besides with a Colt's navy revolver.

The inclement winter of 1863-4 was hardly passed when final orders came to march to the front. February 26 the 102d left its cantonments and fell in with the rest of the brigade which had moved out from Nashville on the 24th. The weather was warm and balmy until the evening of the third day, when it began to rain; through the fourth day it rained moderately, and was cold, and that night our camp was established on the naked creek bottom at Tullahoma. The temperature lowered, the stream rose and overspread a part of the ground; blankets and equipments were submerged; and the men were driven out of their tents. About one o'clock in the morning the writer started a fire, using a cracker box, and by the light was enabled to pick up the tiniest parts of tree tops. Piling on these twigs the flames leaped up and danced a cheering and grateful invitation to the men who flocked from all parts of the brigade. It poured down the next forenoon, and 3,000 soldiers, wet, cold and hungry, stood shivering in the rainy camp. In the afternoon removal to high ground and timber was taken, and by night, with the aid of huge fires, reasonable comfort and good feeling were restored. Trees groaned beneath the weight of ice and the ground froze hard. Long will the first brigade remember its sojourn at Tullahoma. On the eighth day the column crossed the Raccoon mountains, a spur of the Cumberland range, from Cowan, over the rockiest and roughest road in America, and camped on the other side at a place on the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad called Tantelon. The wagon train lay on the mountain all night and did not finish the passage till noon the next day. Stevenson was passed and Bridgeport reached March 7; the 8th we rested; the 9th we moved again; and the 10th, being the fourteenth day from Lavergne, the command reached the Wauhatchie valley, at the foot of the frowning western encampment of Lookout mountain.

Here was made the most pleasant and beautiful camp the regiment ever had. Snugly concealed by an environment of towering eminences, and washed in rear by Lookout creek, it lacked nothing in natural scenery and surroundings to give it an air of the most quiet picturesqueness. Its elaborate and tasteful decoration was due mainly to the efforts of Lieut. A. H. Trego and Adjutant J. H. Snyder, gentlemen of the highest æsthetic endowment and culture. Space does not admit a description of the tall arches, elegant devices, military legends, the ornamented speaker's stand, and the chapel for religious worship. Camp life was not more agreeable anywhere than at this place; but the stay of the regiment was one of hardening activity and preparation for the rigors of the approaching campaign: reviews, inspections, company and battalion drills, and evolutions by brigade and division.

April 10 the last horses held by the mounted companies were turned over at Chattanooga. The navy revolvers were surrendered, and an order came on the 29th to exchange the Spencer rifles for Springfield rifled muskets. This last order produced a gloomy shadow on the men's faces; but as the time was short the change was never made. We anticipate a little to say that this arm gave the 102d great reputation in the army. "Give way for the Spencer regiment," "Let these Spencers up," and the like, were expressions often heard when the regiment was going up to relieve some other in a hot place on the front line. The rebels recognized the regiment by its fire, and often asked what kind of arms it had; several times it was jocosely inquired if the boys "wound up their guns on Monday morning and fired all the week." The slow fact never dawned upon the sleepy authorities that this rifle was fit for anything but the mounted service, and the idea prevailed that soldiers armed with it would become addicted to laxity of aim and waste ammunition. The 102d demonstrated the senility of these fears.

After the 11th and 12th army corps had been transferred from the east, Ward's brigade was attached to the former and numbered the first brigade of the first division. On the consolidation of those two corps in March, to form the 20th, it became the first brigade of the third division, and ever after retained that designation.

On the 2d of May simultaneous movements of all parts of the army began. Ward's brigade camped that night at Gordon's mills. On the 4th it moved from there to the vicinity of Ringgold, and on the 6th to Leed's farm, near Nickajack Trace. Next day Taylor's ridge was crossed at Gordon's pass; Gordon's Springs was left behind, and the command encamped near Villanow. On the 11th, following up the movement through Snake Creek gap, begun by McPherson on the 9th,



we halted for the night in the narrow defile between two of the immense ridges of the mountains. After cutting a new road through the woods the brigade moved out the next day two miles to Sugar Valley. The advance was resumed early on the morning of the 13th, and the command had gone but a short distance when it found itself in proximity to the enemy. During a brief halt here Gen. Kilpatrick, commanding the cavalry, was brought to the rear wounded. At intervals during the forenoon advances were made, and in the afternoon the brigade was formed in line with a company from each regiment deployed as skirmishers. Then moving forward a short distance the line halted, the skirmishers occupying the crest of a ridge in open timber in full view of the operations beyond, including the charge by the 15th corps and capture of the enemy's rifle pits, a redoubt, and two cannon. Meantime, having moved some distance, about eight in the evening our division took a position on the right of the 14th corps and on the summit of the wooded ridge overlooking Camp creek, on the other side of which about eighty rods was the enemy, working with vigor to strengthen his position.

Company G was ordered out as skirmishers and posted at the base of the hill. Early next morning company E was added, and then a bold advance was made to the stream. An attempt to outflank the line being discovered by Capt. Sedwick, he returned through great exposure to the reserve, and, advancing to the left, drove the rebels back. In the afternoon, while neighboring troops were engaged, our line was ordered forward to the brow of the hill as a feint. The movement unmasked the left of company I and a tremendous volley concentrated upon it killed one, wounded two severely, and two slightly. The day was very hot. The skirmishers in their advanced position could not move without fatal danger, and their sufferings from heat and thirst were intense. The condition of the wounded, beyond the reach of help until darkness, was more aggravated. The casualties in company G were: killed, John Gibson and Watson W. Hibbs; wounded, Frederick Friebele, John Burnett (mortally), Lemuel S. Gruffy, William P. Irwin (died in hospital), William S. Pearson, William M. Bunting, John B. Felton, John Dunn, and William T. Todd (died in hospital). In company E the wounded were: Michael Oswalt (died in hospital), Jonathan P. Morrison, and Gilbert Zend.

On the morning of Sunday, the 15th, the division was relieved and marched four miles to the left to join the rest of the corps, which had been ordered round the day before. A fortified hill on the Dalton road, north of Resacca, was selected for attack in the hope of piercing the line at that point. The enemy's breastworks, nearly 500 yards

distant from where our troops could be massed for assault without discovery, stretched away in the form of an arc upon the crest of a long, high hill covered with forest trees, hiding the position from view. A spur, lower than the main ridge, jutted out in front, and on this a lunette had been constructed in which were planted four twelve-pound brass cannon. The brigade was marched up under cover of the heavy and tangled woods to the crown of the lofty ridge confronting this formidable position, and there organized for the assault, with the 70th Indiana in front, the 102d next in order, followed by the 79th Ohio, and the 105th and 129th Illinois, closed *en masse*. At noon a low command was given and the column moved down the hill without a word, concealed by the timber and the heavy undergrowth, down trees helping to obstruct the ground, and pushed its way through with fixed bayonets. Debouching suddenly upon the open, plain, Gen. Ward gave the short, shrill command, "double quick," and with a bound and a prolonged yell the brigade sprang to the assault. At the same instant heavy skirmishing along the whole front and a brisk cannonade were begun to confuse the enemy and cover the charge. The rebels were taken by complete surprise, but responded at once with a terrible fire from the battery and the infantry posted behind. The smoke from the rebel position wrapped the hill in a lurid mantle, and the refrain from the artillery on both sides thundered above us. Men were dropping on every hand, but on and on with a continuous shout, like a thunderbolt of war, went the brigade. It seems but a minute and the broad valley is passed; breath is shortened and speed slackened, but the column presses up the hillside. Some stoop beneath while others push aside the boughs. The cheer has died out and the men, unable to see the foe, clench their teeth for deadly work. A moment more and the rebel guns, shotted with grape and canister, vomit their red flame into the faces of the advancing column. At the last discharge the men are so close that the hot breath of the angry cannon sways the line for an instant. Then, on our side is the first musket fired. A tremendous roar convulses the earth. A few of the rebel gunners flee, but the rest remain, like the heroes that they are, at their pieces, and with the obstinacy of despair vainly endeavor to beat back our men with their sponge-staffs! But all save five are slaughtered; these are taken prisoners by members of companies E and I. Many impelled by the boldness of ardor dash still deeper into the woods that cover the rebel intrenchments, and a few go quite up to them.

At this juncture an unfortunate circumstance deprived us of a complete triumph to this magnificent charge. Gen. Ward being wounded



almost at the beginning of the action the command devolved upon Col. Harrison of the 70th Indiana. He lost his coolness and ordered a retreat. Through misunderstanding the second brigade, brought up for support, fired into us from the rear. These evil occurrences caused confusion, and some fell back while others remained. The rebels had retired from their works, but rallied and returned. Had the situation of the breastworks been known to the men, or could they have been seen by most of them, the line would have been taken. But when the lunette was captured, no other works being in sight, it was supposed by the men generally that they were in possession of all the enemy had, and that the rebel infantry had ingloriously fled. This was their first battle, too, and they had no fixed and common idea as to what might be found on the field, or what should be expected. With their experience a month later they would have carried the entire parapet in handsome style and completely broken through the enemy's line.

The rebels having come back, they opened with sharp volleys, and our men, lying down behind logs and trees and under the redoubt, grimly resolved to hold all they had gained. The lines were but a few rods apart, and a galling fire was kept up by both sides during the day and a part of the night; but the foe was well protected, while our men were greatly exposed to raking shots from the right and the left, as well as from the front.

When at the early stage the disorder was created, a part of the regiment was collected at the foot of the hill and marched to the left, where they took a share in a fierce engagement with Hood's corps, which charged our line and was disastrously repulsed.

At ten o'clock that night we were relieved and fell back a short distance to the rear for rest. The casualties in the 102d were 18 killed, 76 wounded, and 1 missing. Six of the wounded soon after died. In this action the gallantry of both officers and men received flattering notice next day in orders from Gen. Butterfield, and later, complimentary credit from the general of the army. Acts of individual heroism were numerous. Orderly sergeant John Morrison, of company A, who had been commissioned lieutenant but not mustered, and was wounded and afterward died, was much applauded for conspicuous bravery. Color-sergeant R. L. Carver displayed most courageous bearing and was seriously wounded. The banner-bearer, Corporal P. F. Dillon, fell an instant later, pierced through the breast. Adjutant J. H. Snyder caught up the banner and bore it with impetuous gallantry into the earthwork and subsequently planted it on the parapet. Fifty bullets riddled its folds and two struck the staff. The colors of the 102d were the first raised over the works. Persistent

valor shed luster on our flag. The desperate courage which held the position from noon until ten o'clock at night was not surpassed by the heroism which covered our arms with glory at Buena Vista or Cerro Gordo.

That night Johnson withdrew his army across the Oostanaula, and Sherman followed close behind the next day. Our brigade was left to bury its dead. A long trench, embowered by soughing pines, was dug, and the fifty-one slain of the brigade were given tender sepulture in this common grave. A prayer was said, a few remarks were made by a white-haired chaplain, the grave was filled, and the brigade, as night was nearing, hastened to overtake the main army.

“ We marched on our wearisome way,  
And we strewed the wild hills of Resacca —  
God bless those who fell on that day.”

On the morning of the 27th we crossed the Coosawattee river and marched ten miles that day. The 18th was hot and many straggled along the route of fifteen miles. Toward the close of the afternoon the enemy grew stubborn as he was closely pressed. Moving out very early next morning, the 19th, the brigade was shortly thrown into line of battle, with companies B and G from the 102d in front as skirmishers. The enemy was in plain sight, and after taking a shelling from a single field piece an hour and a half, and losing Samuel Harvey, of company G, the brigade moved two miles to the right. As soon as this new ground was reached the rebels emerged from a dense woods on the opposite side of an extensive field, and advanced toward our line. With extreme energy a barricade of rails was made, while a battery on our right played upon them so effectively as to send them hurtling back whence they came. At 2 o'clock the order to advance was given, and we debouched into the cleared space and marched in columns by company up the rising ground. Banners were unfurled and fluttered proudly over the heads of the men, as with handsome precision they executed the movement. As far as could be seen in either direction nothing met the eye but this imposing pageant. Gen. Hooker and his staff remained near our brigade during the afternoon, and when the highest ground was reached we were halted in that position for some time, our commander watching from this favorable point the movements of the enemy. We were close on the foe and there was expectation of a battle. Johnson had resolved to risk a general engagement at Cassville, and had his army strongly posted and intrenched for that purpose, but later developments led him to adopt a different plan. Our skirmishers were thrown forward to a narrow strip of woods below us; beyond this was another field



into which the rebels came. A battery in our immediate rear pitched a few shells over the tree tops where our skirmishers were sheltered, and as we had a view of the open ground on the other side, we presently saw the rebels raising the dust in retreat. They were followed by the skirmishers who disappeared in the timber which hid the enemy at the same time. At five o'clock we advanced over the same ground to the edge of Cassville. After a brief halt the command fell back and went into camp near the place from which it last moved up. We slept that night under orders from the commanding general for the whole army to close in upon Cassville at daylight, and "to attack the enemy wherever found." But he was in full retreat before that hour.

Pausing a few days till the railroad was repaired we moved again at four o'clock on the morning of the 23d and crossed the Etowah. On the 24th, continuing in the direction of Dallas, the command camped at Burnt Hickory, and at four o'clock on the afternoon of the 25th was brought up to support Geary's division, which had struck the enemy in force at New Hope Church, and was under fire some hours. At dark the brigade was ordered to march over the four lines of our troops lying in front, and to attack the enemy vigorously. The 102d instantly began the forward movement, which was soon arrested by a member of Gen. Butterfield's staff till the 70th Indiana could make connection with it. When this was done Col. Smith renewed the advance until we came upon the skirmishers belonging to the second brigade (Col. Coburn), where he halted the regiment and ordered the men to lie down while preparations were making for the attack. It was discovered that we were separated from the 70th, and Col. Coburn at the same moment gave information that the enemy was not more than 200 yards in front, strongly posted and six lines deep. One of Gen. Butterfield's staff appeared, and being notified of the situation directed Col. Smith to remain in that position, and, if possible, to find Col. Harrison. The latter was discovered some distance in the rear, and being temporarily in command of the brigade ordered the 102d to return, which it did, getting into position with the rest of the brigade about ten o'clock. It had begun to rain, the night was very dark, and the command was hopelessly mixed up in the forest. The bursting rebel shells lighted up the woods with a grand and weird appearance. Fatigued and rationless the men sank down upon the wet ground.

In his memoirs, speaking of this place, and events here, Gen. Sherman says: "The woods were so dense and the resistance so spirited that Hooker could not carry the position, though the battle was noisy and prolonged far into the night. This point, 'New Hope,' . . . was four miles northeast of Dallas, and from the bloody fighting there

for the next week was called by the soldiers 'Hell-Hole.' The night was pitch-dark, it rained hard, and the convergence of our columns toward Dallas produced much confusion. I am sure similar confusion existed in the army opposed to us, for we were all mixed up. I slept on the ground, without cover, along side of a log, got little sleep, resolved at daylight to renew the battle, and to make a lodgment on the Dallas and Allatoona road, if possible, but the morning revealed a strong line of intrenchments facing us, with a heavy force of infantry and guns. The battle was renewed, and without success." Descriptive of the style of fighting, he continues: "All this time a continual battle was in progress by strong skirmish-lines, taking advantage of every species of cover, and both parties fortifying each night by rifle-trenches, with head-logs, many of which grew to be as formidable as first-class works of defense. Occasionally one party or the other would make a dash in the nature of a sally, but usually it sustained a repulse with great loss of life. I visited personally all parts of our lines nearly every day, was constantly within musket-range, and though the fire of musketry and cannon resounded day and night along the whole line, varying from six to ten miles, I rarely saw a dozen of the enemy at any one time, and these were always skirmishers, dodging from tree to tree, or behind logs on the ground, or who occasionally showed their heads above the hastily-constructed, but remarkably strong, rifle-trenches."

Companies A and F were detailed to build breastworks, and before daylight the regiment was brought to the line and engaged with a will in the same task. A thick fog obscured everything; still the enemy's sharp-shooters were able to annoy severely the working parties, and Capt. D. W. Sedwick was ordered forward with company E to drive them away. He advanced to within a few yards of the rebel breastworks before discovering his proximity to them, and before he could withdraw had several men wounded. Posting his company behind trees and logs the rebel marksmen could not long endure the intense and accurate fire of the Spencer rifles. Company E was relieved early by company C, and this at one in the afternoon by company K. Capt. Sedwick had seven men wounded that morning. Battery M, 1st New York artillery, had been brought up to our line and kept in constant activity two or three hours, and the rebels, to silence or check its firing, planted guns nearly opposite in their intrenchments. Information of this, coming to Col. Smith, he strengthened the skirmish-line with eight picked men, who were instructed to cover the guns, which could be seen through the foliage, with a torrent of lead, to prevent their use or removal. Gen. Hooker approved this and ordered that it be continued



with vigor, and at five o'clock the skirmishers were reinforced by twenty more marksmen. At eleven o'clock at night the rebels attempted to remove them, but were frustrated by the terrible fire concentrated on them from the Spencer rifles. The guns were held by occasional reliefs until the afternoon of the 27th, when the regiment was relieved by the 111th Pennsylvania. When the Spencers were gone the enemy got his battery off.

Moving to the right half a mile and joining the brigade on the right of the corps, we waited till after dark for orders, and then were placed behind breastworks, where we lay till the next morning, and were relieved by the 73d Ohio. Company F had one man wounded here just as the relief was taking place. The rebels opened on us warmly as we retired, and we had not more than reached a location 300 yards in rear, for rest, when they showed awakened activity, and "several rounds of grape shot were fired by them, and the little *iron crab apples* barked the trees and rattled around so thickly it was marvelous no one was hurt." Finally, dropping a little farther to the rear, we camped for the night. Loss during the four days, 4 killed and 14 wounded.

At ten at night on the 29th the 102d was ordered half a mile to the right to close a gap between the 15th and 20th corps, and on the morning of the 31st was relieved by the 129th Illinois, Col. Case. At noon of the 1st of June, being relieved by troops from the 15th corps, we moved with the brigade three miles to the left. Thus had passed a week in the "Hell-Hole," and thus ended our share in "the drawn battle of New Hope church," so-called by Gen. Sherman.

At noon on the 2d a rainy period, which extended to the last days of the month, began with a descending torrent. An hour later the brigade again took up the movement to the left, and proceeding two and a half miles was formed in order of battle in support of the 2d brigade, before which the enemy fell back stubbornly. The other regiments were more exposed and their loss was considerable. Brigade Surgeon Potter, of the 105th Illinois, was killed by a shell. The 3d was rainy; the troops were out of rations; another move was taken three miles to the left. Next day another short move was made. Then on the 6th a march of five miles brought us to the *Wet Tortugas*, where we raised a breastwork and lay in the rain till the 15th. Rations were short, and ox-tail soup and damaged "hard tack" in request. At one in the afternoon the brigade was thrown forward, with the 102d on the skirmish-line, companies E, F, G and I deployed, the rest in reserve. Crossing an ample field the rebel skirmishers were driven from their outposts in the edge of the woods. Retreating to strong posts on

higher ground they held out a stubborn resistance, but our men pressed up under a brisk fire to within fifty yards, and at the next advance they drew off. The most important casualty was the wound received by Capt. Isaac McManus.

This place was known as Golgotha church, and it was here that Col. Smith received a flesh wound on the 16th, which sent him to the rear till the 10th of August, when he rejoined the regiment before Atlanta. The loss in the 102d during the two days' operations was thirteen wounded, including the officers named. Alluding to these operations Gen. Sherman says: "On the 15th we advanced our general lines, intending to attack at any weak point discovered between Kenesaw and Pine Mountain; but Pine Mountain was found to be abandoned, and Johnston had contracted his front somewhat, on a direct line, connecting Kenesaw with Lost Mountain. . . . On the 16th the general movement was continued, when Lost Mountain was abandoned by the enemy."

We pause to give the general's description of how breastworks were built: "The enemy and ourselves used the same form of rifle-trench, varied according to the nature of the ground, viz: the trees and bushes were cut away for a hundred yards or more in front, serving as an abatis or entanglement; the parapets varied from four to six feet high, the dirt taken from a ditch outside and from a covered way inside, and this parapet was surmounted by a 'head-log,' composed of the trunk of a tree from twelve to twenty inches at the butt, lying along the interior crest of the parapet and resting in notches cut in other trunks, which extended back, forming an inclined plane, in case the head-log should be knocked inward by a cannon-shot. The men of both armies became extremely skillful in the construction of these works, because each man realized their value and importance to himself, so that it required no orders for their construction. As soon as a regiment or brigade gained a position within easy distance of a sally, it would set to work with a will, and would construct such a parapet in a single night."

On the 17th the right of the army, composed of the 20th and 23d corps, the latter slightly refused on the flank, swung forward in a kind of grand left wheel in the direction of Marietta. It will not be forgotten how Butterfield's division hunted its way through the low bushes and tangled timber to conceal its own movement; for, as Gen. Sherman explains, the enemy's "position gave him a perfect view over our field, and we had to proceed with due caution." On reaching open ground we formed our camp, and lay here till the morning of the 19th, when the bugle sounded the "general," to "pack up our knapsacks and get ready to go." It was here that we witnessed the shelling of a deep



forest by a number of our batteries occupying two tiers upon a lofty and extensive range, one holding the crest, the other half way down the side on a ledge or shelf. For adaptability to the purpose and the occasion the position was all that nature could have made it, and with so many guns in operation, all in full view, the effect heightened by the exhibition beyond, the sharp explosions of shells, and the white puffs of lurid smoke rising above the trees, whose tops were lower than our feet, as we stood on the summit, was such an incident in war's realities as is not often seen. The enemy was sullen, responding only occasionally with his field-pieces, but his sharp-shooters were active and did some execution.

On the 19th the enemy, holding on to Kenesaw mountain, contracted his flanks to cover more completely Marietta and the railroad; and the right wing moved forward in another grand swing eastwardly, our own division, and perhaps others, executing a variety of perplexing maneuvers through the dense pines, and under conflicting orders. The 102d was refused on the extreme right of the corps, and company C held the skirmish line this and the following day. The men worked till midnight building breastworks. To work the whole night was a common occurrence. Rains continued frequent and excessive.

On the night of the 20th the men had scarcely fallen to sleep when they were roused up and ordered to move. This time it was but a short distance and only to straighten the line. Again were the soldiers building breastworks until midnight; before they were finished orders came to cease using the axes and to be ready to march at six in the morning. The forenoon of the 21st was spent waiting in the rain for the order to move; finally Gen. Hooker directed that the men be set to strengthening the works.

From eleven o'clock of the 22d the day was full of surprises and lively operations, and tremulous throughout with impending battle, which fell just at evening upon the first division (Williams'). At the former hour the brigade was formed for the support of the third brigade, Col. Wood, and we were under a chafing fire for several hours; and in the meantime double-quicking across a plowed field to the timber, where we threw up a parapet of rails just behind Wood's men. The afternoon was passed in moving short intervals to the right and making barricades and traverses each time. The last one was finished at one o'clock next morning; at four the command was relieved and soon moved a mile to the right; at noon it moved still farther to the immediate vicinity of the Kulp house, some three miles due west from Marietta. Casualties in the 102 on the 20th and the 22d were one killed and four wounded.

We lay here a little retired from the main line until nightfall of the 26th. At that time the brigade relieved the front line and held it till the evening of the 29th, when it withdrew to the third line for rest, and its place was taken by Wood's brigade. Gen. Butterfield was relieved this day and Gen. Ward succeeded to the command of the division. Col. Harrison assumed command of the brigade.

We have reached the end of the month during which copious rains have scarcely intermitted for twenty-four hours at a time.

At dark on the first of July we exchanged places with the second brigade, which was on the second line.

The rebel chieftain having detected Gen. Sherman in the first stage of a movement for the possession of Kenesaw mountain and Marietta, similar to the one which gave him Atlanta, fell back suddenly during the night of the 2d of July within his defenses on the north bank of the Chattahoochee. The commanding general had so well calculated the effect of his strategy that he was expecting the retreat and had issued orders, which were received that night, for the troops to be ready to march at daylight. Starting out in the morning, Capt. Sedwick in advance with companies E, F, G and B, as skirmishers, we took the road leading to Marietta, and struck the enemy's rear-guard of cavalry a mile from the town. Capt. S. directed the movements of his command with his accustomed prudence, and kept up a running attack until he had driven them through the town, which he occupied an hour in advance of any other troops. From this time till the 6th we moved leisurly toward the Chattahoochee. We stopped that day within two miles of the river, and on the 8th began policing our camp under orders from brigade headquarters. At this place we got first sight of the church spires in Atlanta. By climbing trees we could see them plainly in the distance, and we strained our eyes for the largest view.

The last of the enemy's forces crossed in the night of the 9th, and thenceforward the contending pickets were on opposite banks of the river. In front of our division the murderous fire between them ceased by mutual agreement. The foes basked within a stone's throw of one another; occasionally they talked across, and always manifested the best of feeling. Swimming across from one to the other got to be a practice; papers were exchanged, and traffic in coffee and tobacco was carried on. The "Yanks" had the coffee and the "rebs" the "weed." Gen. Ward, distrustful of this familiarity, forbade it in a special order. But the boys, tired of the constant strain, did not renew the firing.

On the evening of the 17th we crossed the river at Paice's ferry



and camped three miles on the other side. Next day we went two and a half miles farther south, and at three on the morning of the 19th threw up breastworks. Having orders to occupy the range of hills south of Peach Tree creek, the brigade moved on the 20th, and a little after noon it filed along the northern base, the line of march for some distance being swept by the severe fire of the rebel skirmishers. At length a halt was made, and the men threw themselves on the side of the hill under the scorching sun for a rest, and the cooks engaged in making coffee on the creek bottom.

This was our situation when, at half-past three, the order was given to fall in. In a few minutes word came from those at the top of the hill that the rebels were coming. At that instant a rider was seen coming down from the right, in rear of the line, at full speed, brandishing his sword. It was discovered to be Col. Harrison, and in a moment more was caught the command, "Forward!" It was a magnificent sight to those who saw the "Old Iron Brigade" go up the hill that day in a counter onset.

The engagement was fought mainly by the 20th corps. The formation of the line on which the shock fell was in the following order beginning on the left: Newton's division, 4th corps; Ward's, Geary's, and Williams' divisions, 20th corps; and one brigade of Johnson's division, 14th corps. The 20th corps met the enemy without protection of any kind; the other commands fought behind light parapets. The former also had not established its line, and was caught without a premonition while in the act of change; the second (Geary's) division was but partly deployed, some of the regiments were closed *en masse*, drawing rations and cooking. The first (Harrison's) brigade was entirely on open ground, the right and left flanks resting against wooded eminences. It was on the right of the division and was arranged with the 102d on the right, and the 79th Ohio and the 129th Illinois in succession toward the left. The 105th Illinois and the 70th Indiana were in the rear, but when the left of the brigade was hotly engaged they advanced and took part in the hand-to-hand combat. On the right of the 102d was a battery which opened the battle in our front as soon as the enemy debouched from the woods, and before the main line reached the summit. When the column halted on the ridge there was a sudden and tumultuous roar as if it had been the crack of doom. The open vista was swarming with the enemy advancing steadily without skirmishers, in the Russian style, in deep masses, and in easy musket range. In front of the 102d was a clump of trees and a stream; the latter bent north across our line, forming a ravine having long sloping sides. The brigade lay across this ravine with its flanks resting

above and overlooking the center. The stream turned the rebels off from the immediate front of the 102d, and this regiment was free to take an oblique and enfilading fire which was directed to the left upon the crowded columns pressing the brigade in that quarter. The 79th Ohio, on the left and the battery on the right, were obliged to concentrate theirs on the same ground. The effect of this converging fire was appalling. The rebels went down by scores. Ragged gaps were torn through their ranks faster than the men could close up. They fire as they come bending down to catch the least of the storm and looking toward the torrent that comes from the Spencer rifles. Their flag bearers crowd to the front and press forward, waving their colors defiantly to encourage and animate men who move amidst rampant slaughter as if they had come to die. As flags go down they are picked up by new carriers who flaunt them and urge on with marvelous fortitude. The battery, the 102d and the 79th have wrapped the hill whereon they stand in lambent flame. With desperate energy the whole brigade is gathering the largest advantage on the first equal field. But what can check that surging, resistless assault? The column has passed the line and the ordeal of our enfilading and plunging fire rolls on wildly to dash itself against the unsupported ranks of the 70th, the 105th, and the 129th. The shock would have overborne these regiments but for the terrible reduction of the enemy's numbers before the commingled encounter. At length, forced to yield the field, the bleeding, decimated remnant returns in precipitate disorder only to run again the gauntlet of that withering fire which broke the rebels' strength but could not daunt their courage.

While the events we have described were taking place on the left, a threatening situation was developed on our right. Geary's division being unexpectedly assailed before it was well in position, the brigade connecting with Ward's division was forced back, and the rebels came upon our right flank, enfilading the line, momentarily capturing the battery at the head of the 102d, and firing one or two ineffectual shots down our ranks. They were evidently about to fall upon our rear when an aid dashed up to Capt. Wilson who was commanding the regiment (Lieut. Col. Mannon being sick but on the field), and told him that if he remained in that position his command would be captured in less than five minutes. But no heed was given to this, and in a few minutes more the brigade that had given way was rallied and recovered its ground. The battery at one time in the hands of the foe, was taken down the hill under whip and spur, but was brought back to remain.

The heavy work of this battle was done in an hour. Hood's and Hardee's corps were the assailing force. The carnage was frightful.



Taking into account the time and number engaged, and the number put *hors de combat*, it was the most sanguinary battle of the campaign. The field on our left front was covered with the slain, and it would have been no trouble to walk over it without stepping upon the ground. Gen. Sherman reported 500 rebels dead. In the hospital of the third division were over 600 wounded rebels, and most of them bore more than a single wound. The enemy's loss was estimated by Gen. Hooker at 6,000; our own loss was 1,907. The favorable position of the 102d shielded it from heavy loss. Two were killed and nine wounded. But it had done unexampled execution; 5,000 rounds of Spencer ammunition alone were estimated to have been used. The brigade captured three stands of colors. As soon as the fighting was over, Gen. Hooker sent word that the third division had saved the day, and thanked the first brigade for its gallant behavior.

After the battle, when prisoners were taken and asked how many were left in their army, their sad answer was: "Enough for another killing."

Hood having fallen back to Atlanta, on the 22d our lines were advanced and contracted around the devoted city, the first brigade occupying a place three-fourths of a mile east of the railroad. The 102d was warmly shelled until the evening of the 25th, and had two wounded. Advancing a hundred yards it was under fire twenty-four hours and one severely wounded. It then moved to the rear and right, taking a place in the second line, where it was shelled more vigorously than ever. During the progress of the battle on the 28th the division was ordered to the support of those engaged; but this was countermanded and the troops marched back, the first brigade going into camp east of the railroad. On the following morning the division marched to the extreme right of the army and formed a line perpendicular to the rear to protect the flank. On the 2d of August, being relieved, it marched back, and next day was assigned a position on the left of the 14th corps and just west of the railroad. The line was advanced a short distance on the 5th and the 13th. Col. Smith rejoined the regiment on the 10th.

On the 25th orders looking to the placing of the main body of the army south of Atlanta and directly upon Hood's communications were received, the defense of the Chattahoochee being assigned to the 20th corps. The signal for withdrawal, previously arranged, was for the field-bands to begin playing, as usual, about twilight, and close the evening performance with Yankee Doodle precisely at eight, when the columns were to move noiselessly out of the intrenchments. The bugles sounded "retreat" at the customary hour, of eight, and half



ASA W. RANSOM





an hour later "tattoo." How impressive and tremulous those long strains ! Our brigade moved a mile to the rear and lay there till half past two in the morning. The pickets remained at their posts till near daylight. We reached the river just as day broke forth.

In the afternoon of the 27th our brigade crossed to the north side of the river, and was separately disposed, the 102d being stationed behind a light parapet which the rebels once threw up on the heights. On the night of the 1st of September we lie in our bunks listening to the explosions in Atlanta. They tell their story. Next day the city is formally surrendered to Gen. Ward ; and "Atlanta is ours and fairly won."

The following from Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, the ablest commander in the confederacy, will be interesting to those who toiled and fought so valiantly against his consummate generalship ; and none who were arrayed against his own men will doubt the justness of his tribute to their military virtues. Alluding to the Atlanta campaign, he is reported to have said : "There is nothing in the history of war that can equal many of the maneuvers of that important campaign. History does not record such marvelous ability to overcome obstacles and prepare the pathway for any army as were exhibited on many occasions by Gen. Sherman's engineers. It was just four days from the time they reached the Chattahoochee river and pointed out the standing timber to the vigorous axmen, before they had trains moving across the river over a substantial bridge several hundred feet long [and nearly a hundred feet high], but of unhewn timber. Again, in North Carolina, they marched nine miles a day and corduroyed every foot of the road, a feat never before approached in the history of army movements. Gen. Hampton came to me one day and said he had obstructed a cut in the North Carolina railroad in such a manner as to prevent Sherman's advance some week's ; but we were never able to discern that it any way interfered with his progress. I look upon the ability of the army under my command with its meager resources of everything to make successful warfare, to resist Sherman's march as well as it did, as an achievement worthy of their matchless valor and endurance. No soldiers ever suffered and endured more for their homes and country ; none ever fought harder or with greater bravery."

We have already exceeded the space allotted to this sketch, and while aware that it is only an outline of the history of the regiment, can barely skeletonize the remainder.

On the 16th of September the brigade marched to Atlanta and camped one mile south of the city. From here Col. Harrison obtained



leave of absence and Col. Smith succeeded to the command of the brigade. Lieut. Col. Mannon having a short time before resigned on account of disability, Capt. W. A. Wilson, being the ranking line officer, assumed command of the regiment until he resigned in October. Capt. H. H. Clay, of company D, succeeded, and was finally commissioned and mustered as major.

On the 1st of October the brigade marched back to the Chattahoochee, where it lay cantoned until the 14th of November. The railroad north of the river was destroyed on the 12th, and the next day it was torn up on the south side. On the evening of the 13th and the morning of the 14th the brigade was pulled into the river. At ten o'clock on the last day the command took up the march for Atlanta to plunge, on the morrow, into the unknown destinies. The soldiers felt that the destination was to be Savannah or Mobile; but when our column pointed in the direction of Stone mountain about noon of the 15th, "Savannah" was the watchword; though at this time the objective, owing to the contingencies of war, was not certainly fixed in the mind of the commanding general. There was a magical fascination in it, for all were sure that this expedition would be one of the renowned achievements of the war.

We marched almost continuously until after dark on the 16th, the brigade being on detail the first day and night as train-guard. The 102d was in advance of the division on the 17th, and moved at daylight. Impressment of stock and provisions began by regular foraging parties. We marched on the 18th through the quiet, pleasant country village of Social Circle, and the railroad hamlet called Rutledge, and went into camp after dark. On the 19th Madison, county seat of Morgan county, was passed; and on the 20th the command started before daylight, the 102d in the advance. We camped at half-past three o'clock two miles north of Eatonton. We marched through this place next morning. It had rained the two previous nights, and rained all this day; the roads were very heavy; still, no hardship in that; the soldiers were living off the country! Every man is now a traveling commissariat, carrying flour, meal, yams, preserves, molasses, fowls, mutton, choice cuts of undressed pork, etc. The men dash into houses hunting for soda, flour, meal, and choicer edibles. It would be an error to suppose that all the troops ran helter-skelter; but then there were enough who went in this manner to get all the provisions that were needed.

The 22d was a bleak, chilly day. Starting at ten o'clock, our column, at four in the afternoon, marched into the sleepy town of Milledgeville. The whites had mostly left, and the capital was in the

hands of the colored people. Sullen composure reigned. The army rested here the 23d. Officers, for a prank, collected in the hall of representatives, repealed the ordinance of secession, and solemnly declared the "sovereign" State of Georgia back in the union. Crossing the Oconee river on the morning of the 24th, we at once left the high, rolling country for the level, sandy, swampy region which stretches hence to the coast. Camp was pitched at midnight. The division guarded the wagon-train on the 25th. Roads were execrable; teams stalled in the mire; progress was very slow. A burned bridge caused the train to park and the division to encamp only five miles forward from the bivouac of the night before. Skirmishing in front with Wheeler's cavalry. Some skirmishing on the 26th. The command halted early at night at Sandersville. The following of contrabands was becoming numerous. At sundown on the 27th the column was at Davisboro. Some light skirmishing was done, and a part of the corps was engaged in destroying the Georgia Central railroad. Soldiers in jubilant spirits. The march was resumed at eleven on the 28th, and the troops went into camp at night near the Ogeechee river. The 14th corps crossed that night on our road. Lying in camp on the 29th till two in the afternoon, the command crossed the river on a pontoon bridge; marching five miles it bivouacked at the county-town of Louisville. The first and second divisions were tearing up the railroad, and our division was with the wagon-train. The 30th was passed in camp. December 1 the column moved five or six miles. A party of foragers had a running fight with the rebel cavalry, and three of the 102d were taken prisoners. On the 2d the first brigade was in the rear, and the troops had a night march of several hours. Millen, one of the rebel starvings for union prisoners, was left to the right on the 3d. Tearing up of the Savannah & Augusta railroad gave employment to a number of brigades this day. The famous cypress swamps are reached. The 4th passed without incident, the column marching ten miles and halting after dark. The third division had the advance on the 5th, moved eight miles, and camped early in the afternoon. The rebels amused themselves felling trees across the road on the 6th. Full of the inspiration of our great leader, we marched 'round them. Found camp just as the bugle was blowing "retreat." On the 7th the column, with the 102d in advance, moved on Springfield, county seat of Effingham county, which was reached without other opposition than the barricading of roads. The brigade halted in the town, where it lay over all the next day. The forward movement was resumed after dark the 8th, the brigade taking the rear. The command was under motion during the night and the next day until eight in the evening, and proceeded



eighteen miles. On the 10th the 102d was again the advance. A little after noon we came up against the defenses of Savannah, and bivouacked on the line of investment four and a half miles from the city. The line was corrected and permanently located on the 11th.

The two things to absorb thought and energy now were subsistence and a passage for attack over the swamp in front. Vast quantities of rice were stored on the river. Mills were put in operation, the negroes set to work, soldiers taking a hand with them. Company I was sent seven miles up the Savannah river to an island called Red Knoll, where several days were spent grinding corn and threshing rice. "Hard-tack" was issued on the 20th; rice was almost the sole article of diet for ten days.

The experiment of bridging the swamp was engaged in day and night, with the water from two to four feet deep, full of every obstruction that could accumulate in a forest, and all underlain with a black, sticky mud. Working in the water at this season, and under the rebel guns, which "went hunting" for the boys with exasperating diligence, was hardly comfortable employment. It is scarcely worth the while to say that this was a practical failure. Some members of the regiment waded the swamp in the daytime and made an inspection of the rebel breastworks.

On the morning of the 21st the 20th corps hoisted the stars and stripes over the city hall in Savannah; and the holidays were bright and happy at loyal firesides when tidings of this "Christmas gift" thrilled the great heart of the north.

A short rest at Savannah, and our eagles point northward.

The first foothold gained in South Carolina was obtained by crossing directly from the city. The 102d accomplished the initial movement on January 1, 1865. A halt was made at Cheves' plantation five miles north of the river, until the 4th, when the brigade moved forward a mile, establishing itself at the Hardee farm, known to some as Black Mingo. The road having been corduroyed out from the river, on the 17th the command moved from Hardeeville, twelve miles, and occupied a position on the Charleston & Savannah railroad. On the 29th this place in turn was left behind, and on the following day we arrived at Robertsville, twenty-five miles farther inland. At this place on the 2d of February, as a part of the great army, we severed our communication with the outside world.

From this date to our arrival at Goldsboro', March 24th, there is a hiatus in our own notes, and we depend exclusively on the reliable history of the 102d by our old comrade, sergeant major S. F. Fleharty, with what little aid our recollection can furnish.

On the departure from Robertsville the first brigade had the advance, the 105th Ill. leading. On approaching Lawtonville in the afternoon, and when within a mile of the town, the enemy, holding a strip of timber, disputed our progress. The 70th, the 102d, and the 105th were formed in line of battle, while the 79th and the 129th were sent on a detour to the left, when the rebels were shortly routed. The 102d lost one man killed and two wounded. Moving from this place next day, we marched urgently until the morning of the 6th, when we crossed the Salkehatchie at Beaufort bridge, which was defended by a strong earthwork, from which the enemy had retired when routed by the 15th corps at Rivers' bridge below. The Charleston & Augusta railroad was the point of junction for the whole army, the two wings having set out from different bases, and our column was urged forward with spirit to make timely connection with the army of the Tennessee. The 7th was cold, rainy, cheerless; the troops corduroyed, crossed swamps, built bridges, and late in the evening struck the railroad at Graham. During the 8th, 9th, and 10th we were destroying the road, and our brigade worked at different points from Graham to Williston, fifteen miles apart, Blackville being intermediate, and the command entering all three of the places.

The march was continued on the 11th; the South Edisto was crossed the same day; and the pine barrens and level country were succeeded by a bolder and more rugged surface. Camp that night was made on a tributary of the North Edisto. The weather was cold, and next morning the air was frosty and biting. Just as the sun was up the men plunged into the freezing current; it was not wide, but for a hundred rods they had to splash through shallow water before reaching the other side of the swamp. On the morning of the 13th the North Edisto was passed, the first brigade having the advance. The 70th Ind., the head of the column, had sharp skirmishing. Bivouac was made on the 14th at the junction of the Lexington and the Columbia and Augusta wagon roads. The leading division encountered heavy skirmishing on the 15th. Camp was made two miles south of Lexington and nine west of Columbia. Leaving the former to the right, the 16th brought us within two or three miles of the city, and from our position on a range of high bluffs which confine the Congaree, we had a bird's-eye view of the famed capital.

At noon of the 17th we moved up to the Saluda river, and the brigade was sent out to watch for Cheatham's force. No enemy was seen, and moving again in the direction of the river, we camped in proximity to a wagon train, which was crossing all night. By noon



of the 18th the last "white cover" was over and we had the right of way, when we marched to within five miles of Broad river. On the evening of the 19th camp was pitched on the hills overlooking that stream. Orders were received here to cut down baggage, burn the wall tents, reserving only the "flies," and to prepare to continue the campaign forty days. The brigade was again in the rear on the 20th, waiting restlessly all day long for the immense wagon train to cross, and all the troops to pass whose turn it was to go ahead. Night fell before we went over; a mile back from the river we dozed in the cold air by blazing fires; "an hour and a half later the brigade refrain, 'Hail Columbia, Happy Land,' aroused us, and we continued on after the slow-moving column." A night march. No intermission till the night of the 21st. Winnsboro, in an elevated region, was reached at noon; the column marched in review before Gens. Sherman and Slocum, and bivouacked two miles beyond the town. Arriving at Rocky Mount on the 22d, camp was made on the south bank of the Catawba; but after many had rolled up cosily in their blankets beneath the "dog tents," an order was received to cross the river. Having got ready and waited some hours for other troops to make the passage, our turn came at midnight, and we found a camping place a mile the other side. Breakfast was omitted on the morning of the 23d till the command had moved three miles to a place in the dense woods. Heavy rains commenced falling and continued until the night of the 25th; the pontoon bridge was swept away, leaving the 14th corps on the south side of the Catawba, which rises rapidly, and is a raging stream when up. Nearly a week's detention of the army of Georgia was the result. Gen. Sherman says: "The roads were infamous, so I halted the 20th corps at Hanging Rock some days to allow time for the 14th corps to get over." Advancing again on the 26th, and corduroying, the brigade encamped before noon near Hanging Rock, a place of natural curiosity as well as of revolutionary interest. Lying there during the 27th, on the 28th the march was continued in the direction of Cheraw, the soldiers corduroying two-thirds of the way.

This day the regimental foragers, under Capt. Wooley, captured the bank of Camden, which was secreted in the woods. It was discovered by Jesse McQuade, of company I, and Charles Hartsell, of company E. They were fired upon by men guarding it, and McQuade was severely wounded. Hartsell notified the detachment and the capture was made. There were four safes, and the treasure consisted of \$700 in specie, \$2,500 in bullion, and \$35,000 in confederate bonds, besides the silver plate, jewelry, horses, mules, and wagons. The property was delivered by Capt. Wooley at corps headquarters.

McQuade died in 1879, and is buried at Hoopeston, Vermillion county, Illinois. He was one of the most daring spirits in the army.

Until March 3 the column was advancing on Chesterfield. It corduroyed several miles of wretched road that day, and passed through and camped a mile beyond the town. On the 4th a diversion was made on the Wadesboro road, and the third division crossed into North Carolina. No further move took place till the 6th; then at noon the division headed for Cheraw. Arrived there, it passed one of those fatiguing, comfortless nights waiting to cross the river, and when its turn had come it was nearly morning.

This day Lieut. T. G. Brown, of company E, went out from the regiment before it broke camp in command of twenty men, and secured a lot of forage near Wadesboro, but was furiously set upon by 150 rebels, whereupon his party "issued their hams and meal quicker than any commissary could have done it." First a running, commingled fight; then a stand was made, and the Spencers won. The "bummers" not only held the rebels at bay, but followed and drove them. "We saw four of the poor devils that we had shot, one of them was not quite dead," wrote the lieutenant. Brown's loss was four captured and one very slightly wounded. They had an exciting and romantic time getting back to our army, as a rebel division had cut off their direct return; but they found the 14th corps at one o'clock in the morning, and overtook the 102d at eleven the next night.

The command marched eighteen miles from Cheraw and camped at Laurel Hill. The 8th was a rainy day, and the route lay through the solitary pine barrens. Camp was made five miles south of Lumber river. The bridge was burned, and the brigade, wet, cold, hungry, spent all the next day in fruitless waiting near that stream. The 10th was passed on the road from six in the morning till ten at night; the journey of seven miles was varied between wading swamps and toiling through the mud in a crowded road. On the morning of the 11th the men made three miles of corduroy; in the afternoon they struck a plank road and marched twenty miles by ten o'clock, and arrived at Fayetteville.

Moving again on the 13th the column was reviewed by Gen. Sherman and crossed the Cape Fear river. The 102d was sent forward on a reconnoissance. The foragers drove the rebels before the regiment, and the latter pitched camp five miles in advance. Reconnoitering was continued the next day, two other regiments being added to the force. The foragers, with their usual enterprise and boldness, cleared several barricades of the rebels; but at Silver Run, on the Raleigh road, the enemy defied their irregular, predatory attacks. Companies



A, I, C, and E, of the 102d, were deployed and had a lively skirmish. A respectable force being developed, the party drew off at dark and returned to camp, a distance of nine miles.

On the 15th the left wing (army of Georgia) advanced by this road, encountering feeble resistance at Silver creek, just north of which the brigade encamped, while the rain descended in torrents. There was heavy skirmishing in the evening by our cavalry. Indications promised fighting, which came on the 16th. "The troops moved early and soon found the enemy. When about four miles south of Averysboro heavy firing commenced in front. The first brigade, except the 70th Indiana, which was the train-guard, was formed on the right of the road in line of battle, and preparations were made for an advance. Finally we moved by the left flank, crossed the road, and made a detour of about three-fourths of a mile to the left. Then moved to the front, the skirmishers becoming quickly engaged. As we advanced cautiously through the young pines to the edge of an open field, it was perceived that the brigade had completely flanked the rebel position. Not more than a hundred and twenty-five yards in advance they were visible in great numbers, running forward to their front line of works to re-inforce the rebels their engaged. At that instant a number of our men yelled out, 'Don't fire, they are our own men.' For a moment our line was undecided. It was thought barely possible that we had become bewildered and were about to charge our own troops. Many months of active campaigning had rendered the uniform of the opposing armies almost indistinguishable. Many of the rebels wore blue, and many of the federals, having worn out their blue, were dressed in citizen's gray. The enemy in the meantime had kept up a galling skirmish fire, and heavy artillery and infantry firing was going on in the front, where the third brigade confronted their breastworks. Soon all doubts as to the identity of the rebels in our front were dispelled. The brigade raised a yell, and, as if by an intuitive perception of the duty required, rushed forward, the 102d on the right, the 79th on our left, the 129th and the 105th in the second line. The rebels, completely surprised and outflanked, instantly broke. Yelling like wild men, the brigade swept magnificently forward, directly in rear of and parallel with the rebel line of works. Three pieces of artillery fell into our hands and many prisoners, recumbent in a trench behind their works, held up their hands and handkerchiefs begging for mercy. But the main body of the charging column rushed by them and continued on after the flying enemy, who abandoned blankets, haversacks, canteens, guns, cartridge boxes, everything that could impede their progress. Reaching heavy timber the pursuing column

halted, reformed the line of battle, and rested for a time, keeping up a sharp skirmish fire with the enemy. . . . At length, other troops having moved forward to our support, a general advance was made. The second line of rebel works was found abandoned, but as we approached the third, which was very strong, we were met by a rapid fire of musketry and artillery, the enemy throwing grape shot and shells. . . . Finally the brigade threw up breastworks a hundred and twenty-five yards from the enemy's line. Night came on with rain. It had been a day of excitement and fatigue. Cold and wet, we passed a miserable night."

The rebels retreated on Smithfield, in the darkness, over bottomless roads, leaving their dead and wounded in the houses around Averysboro. One house contained sixteen of their dead; in the town itself were found thirty wounded men. Gen. Sherman's report showed that the division captured "three guns and 217 prisoners, of which 68 were wounded," and that "100 rebel dead were buried by us." The casualties in the 102d were two killed and nineteen wounded.

The division set out on the morning of the 18th to follow the main army, and were on the road all night, traveling only three miles between sunset and sunrise. The whole country was a quagmire. In the afternoon of the 19th, when the division was in rear with the wagon-train, Johnston's army assailed the 14th corps at Bentonville. The command was dispatched to its assistance, and formed on the extreme left and erected breastworks, but did not become engaged. Johnston fell back on Smithfield on the night of the 21st. During that day Gen. Schofield's army was arriving at Goldsboro from Newbern; and Gen. Terry, coming up from Wilmington, secured the crossing of the Neuse river and laid a pontoon bridge, thus completing the junction of the three armies. Our army concentrated at Goldsboro on the 23d and the 24th. The 102d marched into the town with the wagon-train at sunrise on the morning of the 24th, and camped two miles north of the village and constructed breastworks.

The regiment lost during the campaign forty-four killed, wounded and captured. The march through Georgia extended over 300 miles and consumed twenty-six days; the campaign of the Carolinas, more tedious, prolonged and difficult, covered fifty days and 425 miles actually marched!

On the 5th of April special intelligence of the capture of Richmond was received with exultant joy. On the 10th the army was put in motion for Raleigh, and at the end of the second day we were in bivouac around Smithfield. Next morning the surrender of Lee's army was announced, and produced the most extravagant demonstra-



tions of rejoicing. Raleigh was reached on the fourth day, and orders were given to move the following morning, the 14th, at six o'clock, in pursuit of Johnston, who had departed with his forces the night before. Meantime the rebel general proposed an interview with Gen. Sherman, and the order was countermanded. While waiting for the ratification or rejection by the government at Washington of the arrangement formulated by the two chiefs, the startling news of the assassination of President Lincoln came, and after the violent shock a sadness as tender and noble as the gentle nature of the stricken great man overspread the stout-hearted army and deepened into painful gloom.

The terms of the negotiation having been disapproved, on the 25th we moved out fifteen miles on the Holly Springs road. Johnston surrendered his forces, and we lay there till the 28th and then returned. On the 30th the line of march was taken up for Washington. Arriving at Richmond the 9th of May, we rested one day and on the 11th marched through the city, receiving from the people many kind attentions.

On August 16 Adjutant J. H. Snyder, and Private W. O. Jones, of company I, mounted orderly, left the column to visit the Wilderness battle-ground, and fell, it is supposed, into the hands of bushwhackers, as no trace of them was ever obtained. The adjutant was a man of genial nature, finely organized, of great personal worth and courage, and closely endeared to the regiment. His sad, mysterious end was a cruel shock to his admiring comrades. His companion was a superior soldier and young man.

The army arrived at Alexandria on the 19th, and on the 24th entered Washington, 60,000 under arms, in all the panoply of war. "The pride and strength of the great west swept down Pennsylvania avenue." All day long did "Sherman's army," marching in column by companies at half distance, surge past the reviewing stand with perfect alignments and soldierly bearing. The first brigade camped that night around the northeast corner stone of the District of Columbia. The grand review was over; the war was over; we were on the borderland of peace, sweet peace; and we rested in triumph from our labors.

The regiment was discharged at Washington on the 6th of June, and on that day took the cars for Chicago. It was past midnight of the 7th when we rolled into Pittsburgh, but the wide-awake, generous, patriotic citizens of that city had been busy preparing refreshments for us. Marching to the city hall these were partaken of with keen relish and thankfulness. Noble and generous Pittsburgh. How vivid is that memory after eighteen years! Arriving at Chicago on the 9th, the

regiment was quartered at Camp Fry, and there, on the 14th, the members were paid off and disbanded, and they returned at once to the embrace of friends and the quiet walks of civil life.

Some notice of Col. Isaac McManus, a brave and useful officer of the 102d, who has died since the disbandment of the regiment, is demanded in this connection.

Col. McManus was a native of Indiana, but resided in Mercer county a number of years. He was a school-teacher by profession, and as such will be remembered by numerous citizens of the county who are advanced to middle life. He had traveled over a large extent of his native land and had filled his mind with practical knowledge. He had an aptitude for business, a liberal understanding, and much executive capacity. It was in politics and war that he made his mark as a public man, though he was cut off just at the rising of his power, when his splendid strength of character had laid the foundation for a strong public influence. By education a democrat, he followed the fortunes of his party and contended for its principles with his characteristic zeal and energy, up to a time when his partisanship was lost sight of in the army in the one absorbing consideration and employment of patriotism. In the year 1862 his party, a majority of which, emboldened by much power in the state, was outspoken and active in opposition to the war, held a state convention in Peoria, to which he was an accredited delegate. The committee on resolutions submitted a majority and a minority report, the former demanding a withdrawal of the army to make room for compromise negotiations, while the latter insisted upon no compromise with traitors, but instead a vigorous prosecution of the war. McManus, with true chivalrous spirit, supported the latter, not having yet forgotten the recent sage and dying advice of his lamented party leader, Douglas, that "the shortest way now to peace is the most stupendous and unanimous preparations for war." Returning home he went to work, and by personal application and speeches assisted in raising company G, 102d reg., and was elected first lieutenant. He soon became captain and served with his company until he was wounded, as previously noticed, at Golgotha church, in Georgia, a rebel ball shattering the bone in his left arm and rendering that limb forever useless. He returned from the hospital to his home, and in the autumn of 1864 did much service for the union party in making political speeches. He was kept on detailed service awhile; then he rejoined his regiment after the campaign of the Carolinas, with a commission as lieutenant colonel. He was never mustered, owing to the reduction of the regiment below the



minimum number, the offices of colonel and major being already filled. After the war he entered with much enthusiasm into politics ; and being both a ready and forcible writer and speaker, he contributed largely to the success of his party in the exciting political campaigns of 1866 and 1868. After an able and thorough canvass in 1868 he was elected by a large majority of his republican supporters to represent the 14th district in the state senate. He was recognized in that body as a man of independent convictions and untiring industry, and was placed on some of the most important committees. He died of small-pox January 14, 1870, aged forty-three years. Col. McManus belonged to that class of men who make strong friends and strong enemies. His superlative energy made it impossible for his nature to consort with rest. He was ambitious and desired to be in action. Endowed with a highly combative organization, his tastes found their legitimate activity in conflict. On the sanguinary field his daring amounted almost to recklessness. It seemed as though the breath of battle was a soft relief to his chafing, fiery soul. He was at home in the tempest ; his companions were the thunder and the lightning. In civil life his rugged, restless mind found a congenial theater in the political arena.

[The history of the 102d regiment, as above, was written by Mr. E. S. Ricker, a member of that regiment who followed its fortunes throughout its brilliant career. He took ample notes during the whole time of his service, and we doubt if there is a man living more competent to write the record of this brave regiment.—ED.]

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### OHIO GROVE TOWNSHIP.

Long years ago the Indian chief, with his face toward the setting sun, chanted the death-song of his people :

“We, the rightful lords of yore,  
Are the rightful lords no more.  
Like the silver mists we fail ;  
Like the red leaves in the gale —  
Fail like shadows when the dawning  
Waves the black flag of the morning.”

Their history is not written in classic language ; it illumines no scroll ; it lives on few pages ; but in silent eloquence it speaks in a myriad of forms in their beautiful and significant names that still, and

will forever, linger upon mountain and in valley, lakes, rivers, states, counties, cities and villages.

“Mid the forests where they warred,  
There rings no hunter's shout;  
But their name is on your waters —  
Ye may not wash it out.”

It is astonishing to the children of to-day to be reminded that on the lawn on which they play; that in yonder grove of hardy oaks that now shelter those sleek kine; that on yonder expanse now blooming for the coming harvest; that on yonder plat where all is hurry and bustle, and trade and music and fashion, a hundred years ago was the hunting-ground of the Fox, or the Sac, or the Potawatomie, or the bloody field of contest between tribe and tribe of savage men; that here, too, the green sod drank the life-blood of the white man spilled by the tomahawk of the bloodthirsty Indian; that here the red man, proud and haughty from success in the hunt or battle, compelled his women to abject slavery, treating them as beasts of burden, and mere objects of convenience, never allowing them to join in the amusements, but permitted to sit with their children as “spectators around the fires of war-dances or the horrid orgies after a victory,” holding even their lives at their weapons' points. Fifty years ago the Indian, somewhat tamed by contact with pioneer civilization, and by an aggressive and overpowering government, still lingered in his hunting-grounds, mourned the hamlets of the dead warriors he must leave behind, or stayed to drink the “hemlock” furnished by his treacherous foemen, the wily and unprincipled among the pale-faces. Verily the white man kindled the fire that burned his own home and the passion that slaughtered his own household.

An Indian trail extended across the northwest corner of Ohio Grove township, including sections 5, 6 and 7, crossing Pope creek in section 6. On section 5 in Indian Grove, some forty or fifty of the natives camped as late as about 1836 or 1837. They disappeared and nothing more was known of them for several years when a few returned, but to cast one long, lingering, last look upon the once unmolested spot they had been wont to call what we would term “home.” Some are yet living who witnessed the dusky faces as they indulged in their ludicrous amusements and performed feats peculiar only to the race. The McBrides, Cabeens, Candors, Browns, Stephenses, Hardys, Dillys and McPherrens, have watched their antics and marked their cunning. Alexander Brown, according to his own story, gained his amusement for the first three winters of his residence here, in the camps of these red men. Trading was carried on between Indian and



white man in a way usually amicable. The women of those days, too, had their experiences, which were not altogether agreeable. The boldness, yet with cunning, made the Indians fit subjects to be watched, and more than once was a woman made to tremble by their audacity. But they have gone, most of them, over the hills to their new hunting-grounds from whence they return, according to their own ideas, in spirit only. Another race, and far different, must fill with events the historic page. The march of empire is westward in America, as truly as it was in the orient.

The spot to which these lines are limited was one of inviting character. Its contents are circumscribed by an invisible boundry. It embraces what became when surveyed, all of T. 13 N., R. 3 W. of the 4th P. M. It has Mercer township on its north, Abington township on its west, Warren county on its south, and Suez township on the east. Here were thirty-six square miles of earth, the tilling of which was destined to yield a harvest to the toiler. It would seem that earth had been gamboling and leaping at play when all became at once stationary, leaving the surface rolling and delectable. Here and there the waters of the ages have washed a gutter, a ditch, a creeklet, a creek which to-day forms nature's system of drainage, which rapidly carries the burden of the element hurrying on to the "father of waters." In the north of this plat is Pope creek, supposed to have derived its name from a man so so called. It runs through sections 4, 5 and 6. It is chiefly along this creek that the early emigrants hither chose frontier homes, for here was a fair growth of timber suitable for fuel and building purposes. In early times about one-ninth or four sections of the township were timber, consisting of red oak, white oak, black oak, burr oak, black walnut, white walnut, cherry, red elm, white elm, hickory, soft maple, sugar maple, hackberry, ash, cotton, sycamore, box-elder, etc.

Through the center of the township is the tortuous stream, North Henderson creek. It has a number of small tributaries uniting and draining the central part of the township. It runs through sections 20 and 30, where it has on its either side, Hickory grove. In the southern part of the township is Duck creek. Not so called because any feathered flocks, fond of water, frequent it, but from the fact that in 1833, an early day, William I. Nevius, James H. Bain and others made an exploring expedition from Warren county, Illinois, through this section of country. Arriving at this stream they found it coated with ice. Nothing of that kind could turn a pioneer's march through a new country, so over the ice they started. Nature had not intended her crystal bridge to be completed and ready for use quite so soon.

The structure being yet somewhat weak, attraction of one particle for another was destroyed, and the party dragged down by gravitation to their waists in the cold element below. In the popular language of the day, they were "ducked," and some one of the party believing in names, christened the stream Duck creek. The party continued their exploration, and when the country was spied out returned to their families and cabin homes.

The soil of this part of Mercer county is a rich, black loam of an average depth of about one foot. Coal and stone are present in small quantities, the former of which is inferior in quality and quantity. The soil in early days was very abundant in its production of wheat. William I. Nevius bought a piece of land, and in one crop paid for the land, all expenses connected with its cropping, and had a surplus fund besides. But when we mention this fact it should be remembered that land in those days did not command fifty dollars per acre, as it does to-day, hence that fact does not indicate failure in the ability of the soil still to produce abundant harvests. Says William I. Nevius: "corn is the chief product, which, in a good season, yields seventy bushels to the acre." He further says, "wheat is raised, but, from some indefinite cause, the quantity and quality is inferior to that of early years." Grains, cereals, vegetables and fruits of great variety have long been produced from this fertile soil, and for pasturage it is second to none. Water of a superior, cold, pure quality is secured by digging from twelve to forty feet. With all these attractions and promises wisely did the early seeker for such advantages and fortunes accept the proffered gifts of nature and settle upon this spot. No iron ribs had yet been supplied for this part of the old lady "Earth." No great massive iron monster came puffing and rumbling and rushing, hurrying land seekers over plain, among the hills, over stream, or through tunnel at the rate of thirty or fifty miles an hour. Not so came the sturdy, slow plodding, sure pioneer; but with ox team or horse team, big wagon filled with his family and a very few pieces of furniture, home-made products of genius and a jack knife or an ax, he started to wend his way across endless prairie, through trackless forest, over unbridged stream, through almost bottomless swamp towards the setting sun, leaving here and there a camp fire burning or its ashes, and after a journey of four to seven weeks halting on this spot for a permanent home in the "great West." Instead of this journey many "drifted" down the Muskingum and Ohio rivers on flat boats, and slowly urged their way up the Mississippi river to Oquawka, and later to Keithsburg where they landed their families and goods, then walked or were hauled to their wild homes.



The first comers were from Ohio. They settled near Pope creek, in the northern part of the township, giving to the grove of that section the name of their native state, Ohio. In after years the township was voted the combined appellation, "Ohio Grove." There were explorations made by different ones prior to any settlement. Prior to 1835, a cabin had been thrown together on the northwest corner of Sec. 3, T. 13 N., R. 3 W. of the 4th P. M., but its builder is unknown. This rude hut gave shelter to those who had come to stay. It also became the seat of merchandise where William Mackey sold a few simple goods such as a pioneer could buy. This was the first "store."

September 21, 1835, there started from Muskingum county, Ohio, George McPherren, who had buried his wife in Ohio. In his family were: Mary, James, Susanna, Easter, Daniel, Nancy, Fannie, Sarah and George; Benjamin Decker, the prospective husband of Miss Fannie McPherren; John Walker, husband of Easter McPherren. Some of the family taking sick, a short stay was made at Washington, Illinois. George McPherren, Sr., accompanied by George Long and Matthew Finley pushed on to find a satisfactory location. Mr. Long afterward located in Knox county, and Finley in Henderson. The family made another stay at Little York, where just previous Hughy Martin had been killed by the Indians. Leaving some of the party at the fort, Mr. McPherren, John Walker, Benjamin Decker, and Daniel McPherren came to Mercer county and built a log house on the northeast quarter of section 4, in what is now Ohio Grove township. This "lone mansion" of the country was about 16×18, one story, one room. Some rough boards were hauled from Ebenezer Criswell's saw mill, on Eliza creek, at least fifteen miles distant. This was used for floor. The roof was of clapboards, the window of greased paper. Nails had been brought with them, but were used as sparsely as possible. When ready for "dobbing" the weather was so cold that water had to be boiled for mixing the "mud." The following summer the mortar peeled off on account of its having frozen when put on. The new log "castle" was occupied by the family of eight on Christmas day, 1835. This house was furnished with the old "continental bedstead" of two poles, one leg and two sides of the house and clapboards, etc. Stools served as chairs for a number of years. The other furniture, if it existed, was fashioned to correspond. The house stood close to the section line, one fourth of a mile from the township line. The small log cabin before mentioned, about a mile to the east, was occupied by part of the family in order to hold the claim to the quarter on which it stood. Thus were the first permanent settlers located after a journey of six weeks overland, with all the obstacles and hindrances incident



*Yours Ever*  
*J. W. Cabern*





to the times, and their waitings at different places ere a home was found. Where are the McPherrens now? The father sleeps beneath the sod where all must lie. Benjamin Decker is dead, but his wife, Fannie, owns a farm in Ohio Grove. James is near Reynolds, Sarah is in Iowa, Susanna died in Iowa, John Walker is dead, and his wife is Mrs. Boyer, near Viola. George, son of George, owns over 400 acres of land in Ohio Grove.

In the same year, 1835, it is thought George Smith, Richard Rice, James Moore, and William Moore made their advent. John Moorehead, a native of Pennsylvania, but at that time resident of Muskingum county, Ohio, also settled in the McPherren neighborhood in 1835. He died in August, 1836, the first instance of mortality in this new settlement. He had lived on section 2. His wife survived him till 1862 or 1863. In their family were seven children, one of whom was buried in Warren county. The six were pioneers here. But two are living at this writing (May 12, 1882): Mrs. Ashford Hardy and Mrs. George Smith. Both are venerable ladies, examples of women of busy lives from the beginning to the present of this township's history.

There may have been one or two others who came in this year, but if so they are unfortunately unknown to the writer.

The year 1836 witnessed several additions to the little group of Ohio Grove. Ashford Hardy, born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1802, moved to Warren county, Illinois, in 1835, and in the following year bought the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1, T. 13, Mercer county. He married Sophia Moorehead in an early day. He also early purchased a quarter section in what is now Mercer township. He lived on his first purchase till his death, July 18, 1871. His children were: George, Sarah, Elizabeth, Noah, and Delilah.

James McBride, having heard of the exceeding rich land and the immense quantities of it in Illinois, left Muskingum county, Ohio, early in April, 1836, embarking at Wheeling. He was attracted to Rock Island by reports of the soil, etc., but upon arriving found prices so high, and having a friend, George Jay, at Keithsburg, he determined to land there, which he did. Mr. McBride camped on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, T. 13, on May 10. He bought two quarters, the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, and the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 5, T. 13 N., R. 3 W. of the 4th P. M. A small log square had been thrown together by some squatter. Here Mr. McBride brought his family by ox teams furnished by George McPherren and others of the few already here. In his family were wife and five children: John H., Almeda, James C., Elvira J., and Sarah E. Mr. McBride improved his farm, besides his milling enterprise to be hereafter mentioned. He died November 14, 1847.



Samuel Cabeen, with wife and six children, Thomas B., J. W., S. P., R. J., R. B., and Sarah C., emigrated in 1836 overland, transporting themselves and goods in a wagon drawn by a four-horse team. The S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, was laid claim to and afterward bought. On this a cabin 18×22 was erected. A very low loft was provided for a bedroom for the "boys." The roof of clapboards, floor of puncheon, chimney with back wall and jambs of dirt; two doors. Also a six-light window, a rare expenditure, glass lights being unfashionable in those days. Mr. Cabeen and George McPherren each had purchased a sash of six lights at Jack's mill, in Henderson county. This house of Mr. Cabeen's frequently gave shelter to fifteen or twenty persons, who also partook of the cookery of the hostess. The furniture of this house, too, was meager. Two continental bed-spreads down stairs, a bureau brought from the "East," stools in place of chairs, until the following year, when they were displaced by half a dozen split-bottom chairs, the luxury of that day, furnished for company when present, thus necessitating the use of the stools again. The log cabin served for four or five years, when it gave place to a hewn log house 18×18, almost two stories high. This subsequently received a frame addition, which stands to-day, a relic of the past. Samuel Cabeen died May 1, 1856, his wife surviving him till December 6, 1874. The children are spoken of elsewhere. Richard B. owns part of the homestead, his residence being somewhat of a contrast to the first cabin.

Joshua W. and Samuel P. improved large farms, becoming prominent in the county's welfare.

William Dilley, now hale and hearty at the date of this writing, a wool carder by trade, shipped his carding machine from Ohio in 1836 to Oquawka, Illinois, by river, and in May of that year came, a young man, to blend his future with that of Mercer county. He remained for some time in the McPherren neighborhood, "boarding and working around." In that summer he raised a cabin on a piece of land in what became Green township, and there brought his machine. He married in 1837. He followed wool carding in Green township till 1848, when he sold and settled in what became Ohio Grove township. Here he has improved his farm in sections 1 and 2.

John Wall and wife, a sister of the elder McPherren, were also very early settlers, living in a cabin on Pope creek. Both died in the neighborhood.

Another sturdy pioneer of 1836 was John H. Brown, who emigrated with the Cabeens, bringing wife, Mary (McPherren) and six children: Alexander, George, John, Sarah J., James M., William. He bought no land for about eighteen months, living the first year

near New Boston, then near McClure's bridge, then entered eighty acres in Ohio Grove in 1838. He was a poor man, but by his wonderful energy finally became the possessor of about a thousand acres. A small piece of the land now owned by William Brown was broken in 1836, on which stood a small log cabin. Says William Brown in that year, 1836, the nearest hog to our house was twenty-three miles distant, so that pork was not a common dish for the first year's table. Alexander Brown kept a bachelor's hall for several years. He was the great ox driver of his day. Like his father, he has amassed a large farm.

"A rolling stone gathers no moss." So thought the nucleus of pioneers who settled Ohio Grove. They had come to stay, and staying attracted others. "In union there is strength." All put their hands to the wheel of industry, all aided one another. In trouble sympathy was universal; in pleasure all participated.

The year 1837 brought new neighbors and good citizens. In the fall of 1836 Thomas Candor and his brother, Robert Candor, made the trip from Pennsylvania to Rock Island, then into Mercer county on horse back. Thomas laid claim to the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, T. 13 N., R. 3 W., also the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 7, and cut his name in a large oak standing near what are known as Candor Springs. He then left orders with William Sheriff, of Keithsburg, for the building of a cabin on his farm. The Candors then sold their horses and returned by water to Pennsylvania. Robert died in his native state. In the following year Thomas sold his tannery in Pennsylvania and moved his family of wife and five children, John M., Robert, Josiah, Mary H., and Daniel M., with goods, by one big wagon and a spring wagon with two teams. A part of his goods he shipped by river. East of the Illinois river he bought some stock which was driven through. Arrived in Mercer county, after a short stay in Keithsburg, the family rendezvoused in the log cabin ordered built by Thomas Candor the preceding year. The cabin was 18×18, two-story, the first built in the N. W. of T. 13, and it still stands a relic of bygone times. Could it speak it could tell of many pleasant family circles, friendly hospitalities, merry parties, sacred meetings, as well as burdens and disappointments, and pain and death, followed by tears of bereavement and loss. Mrs. Candor succumbed to the toils of frontier life, dying September 30, 1841, aged forty-two years. Thomas Candor, after a busy life devoted to the good of others as well as himself, died March 13, 1871. The old homestead, owned by Robert Candor, wears a far different aspect from that of forty years ago.

In 1832 William I. Nevius emigrated to Warren county, Illinois,



via the rivers from Ohio. He brought a wife and young children, also some goods with about ten barrels of flour. Flour was a scarce article on the way, and many applications to buy were made but refused. For some reason the party was landed on the Iowa side of the river, near where Keokuk is, by reason of the rapids being so shallow, being told they would be transferred by a special craft. No craft appeared. Finally leaving the family in the wilderness alone, Mr. Nevius secured passage in a skiff and started in search of some one to haul the family and goods to Monmouth, where his brothers-in-law resided, expecting that by his return all would be conveyed over the river. Finding no settlers he gave word to a man, owner of an inferior river craft, that he would push on to Monmouth if necessary to get conveyances. This man delivered the word to Mrs. Nevius, who had taken shelter in a shanty with her four sick children. Imagine yourself, good woman of this decade, in such circumstances! The only cabin within miles. All weird and wild without, and lonely and desolate within, the shadow of night falling as a cloak over all. The real or fancied noise of the approach of wild and savage beasts, or more savage men! The voice at the door calling for admittance and lodging, but sternly and resolutely refused by the heroine within. Anxious to cross the river Mrs. Nevius secured transportation of her goods. She first sent the flour over by the craftsman, who, going home for the night, refused to convey more that day. Next day another load of goods was taken across with the oldest child, small indeed then, to stay with the goods, and a similar postponement of the balance of the work. The mother could see her goods and her child across the water, and must the child remain alone through night in such a place? So said the craftsman. Finally the woman prevailed and the family united on this side the river.

In time Mr. Nevius returned with ox teams and all were taken to Monmouth. Settlement was first made near Atchison's church, on Cedar creek, in Warren county. In 1835 removal near New Boston was had in time to vote for the organization of Mercer county. In 1837 Mr. Nevius secured the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 16, T. 3, and permanently located it. This he improved. He also bought land north of where Sunbeam is now. Here Mr. Nevius became identified with all the interests of Ohio Grove township. He was very handy with tools. Did general repairing for self and neighbors, whether carpentry, blacksmithing, or other repairing. He was a harness and shoemaker also. Mr. Nevius hauled the first apple trees of Mercer county from Hennepin, Bureau county, Illinois, with an ox team. He divided with the Cabeens and McPherrens. This

was in 1837. Mr. Nevius' house was the first on the prairie. Mrs. Nevius still lives, the heroine of many a pioneer's struggle and a faithful helper in woman's work in Mercer county.

Immigration continued steadily year by year. In 1838 William C. Brownlee came from New York, settling near Viola, Mercer county, and in the following year located in Ohio Grove township, buying 240 acres on North Henderson creek. Here he still lives, one of the few survivors of those early pioneers. The Burnets must have arrived about this time or little later; they owned land in the southern part of the township. In this year also came John Stephens, wife and six children: Edward, now of Keithsburg; Peter, in Ohio Grove; Hannah, then Mrs. James Trusler, now of Iowa; James W. (died about 1840); William J., of Iowa; Catharine (Mrs. James Walters). Mr. Stephens purchased the Vernon interest in the mill; also 160 acres of land. He sold and in 1846 settled on the prairie, where his death occurred. His wife survived him, but is now dead. 1839 seems to have been a blank year. 1840, more fortunate, brought William T. Patterson. He had purchased a few simple goods, as linen shirt-bosoms, jewelry, etc., which he sold as he traveled to such as would buy, or would pay his lodging and board with his wares. He worked awhile for Capt. Bain in the distillery. The captain failing, he received nothing for his work. Before doing this he dug a cellar for Henry Kimel. Thus "he worked around." He soon purchased eighty acres of land, for which he largely paid by building a sod fence. He farmed four or five years where Norwood is. It was not till 1847 that he bought and located permanently in Ohio Grove township, where he became owner of the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 24. In 1842 Joseph Robinson came from Quincy, Illinois, and is yet a resident. In 1843 Hammond Webster settled the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28. He died in 1845. In this year (1843) James Calhoun emigrated from Ohio. He brought his wife and nine children: David, William, John K., James H., Joseph C., Samuel C., Elizabeth, Franklin, and Alexander T. The family came via the river to Oquawka. Mr. Calhoun died July 15, 1847. James Emery and sons, James and Robert, must have come about this time. In 1845 came Nathaniel Partridge, a carpenter, and probably Levi Butterfield. James Graham had settled in Warren county in 1842, but in 1845 he located on N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, T. 13, Mercer county. This place he improved, and here he was identified with township affairs till his death, November 25, 1879.

In 1848 John Seaton laid claim to the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19, first "squatting on it," and then pre-empting and finally buying it. He had lived the two years previous in Warren county. Mr. Seaton improved



his farm building, the present residence, in 1861. He died July 21, 1881. The farm is now the property of George Seaton. 1849 brought William Pepper and Samuel Lafferty. The latter came to Mercer county in 1842, but returned to Ohio till 1846, when he settled in North Henderson, then in Suez, and finally Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, Illinois. He is now old and feeble; he, too, looks back to the time when he shot deer, and wolves howled about the place.

In 1850, Thomas, Francis, and John McClellan made their advent. Thomas and John bought the Butterfield place, which afterward became the property of John alone. Jesse Mounts and family, John Smith and family, and others were early settlers; all cannot be found. Settlement became more rapid. The advent of another ceased to be a novelty. Some began to feel crowded and moved away. Several went to Oregon; some to California. In 1851 James Robb, Jacob and Barnet Unangst became residents. Barnet Unangst moved his family of wife and eight children from New Jersey, a distance of 1,100 or 1,200 miles, over the country, one team doing the work. They arrived after a journey of fifty-two days. They settled the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 13, entered for them a little before by Jacob Unangst, who had preceded them. A shanty, 12×16, rough fencing lumber, one story, which was occupied January 2, 1852. The frame-work of this residence consisted of poles sunk in the ground in shed style. The furniture was: bedsteads of home make, blocks of saw-logs for stools, dry-goods box for table, and soon a table made of rough boards. Thus, even in 1851, did emigrants live and endure. The country at that time was thinly settled, there being but one house between Ohio Grove township and Keithsburg. It must have been about this time that John Cameron settled in the southwest of section 19, where he improved a farm. He died about 1858. His daughter, Mrs. Mary Seaton, now occupies the place. James Cameron is in DeKalb county; John died about 1865; Sarah became Mrs. Samuel Criswell; Peter is in Mercer county. In this year also came William R. McCreight. He purchased a farm of six acres of William M. Hayes. William M. Hayes became a resident here prior to this time, but the exact date cannot now be given. A biography of him may be found in the appropriate place. In 1852 came Thomas S. Robb and others. In 1853 Samuel M. Creighton, Joseph Lafferty, Col. Jonathan Duncan, the Kelloggs and Torbets arrived. Others, as the Findleys, Gilmores, McIntires, McCutchans, Sprowls, Garrets, Shrulls, Chandlers, Shoemakers, Dittos, Nolands, Gustin, M. M. Cross, the Browns, Milligans, and a few others, may be considered as having become tolerably old settlers.

It is impossible to find every one. Space will not admit of extended

notices of later settlers. Could those of to-day see those of fifty years ago at their work the fact of progress would be more evident to them by far than these lines can show. The ox-teams, slow but sure, were the stand-bys. The people of this section did their milling at Jack's mills, or Criswell's mills, or sometimes hauled their grain above Moline or to Rockwell's mills. George McPherren and James McBride made the trip, twenty-one miles above Moline, to Cox's mills. Their load was thirty bushels of grain. Each furnished a horse. Arrived at Rock river, McPherren proposed to take the ferry. McBride, a jolly young fellow of high life, jocosely replied, "No; let's ford the stream and save our money for whisky." McPherren then proposed that James should ride the off horse, to which the latter assented, and with which he immediately complied. In the bed of the stream lay the rocks, covered with their slippery film, which McPherren feared, but which McBride dared. Arrived in deep water the "off" horse slipped, lost his balance, his foot over the tongue of the wagon, horse and rider down in the water. It required lively work for a few moments to right rider and horse, both of whom were in a dangerous position. The day was cold and freezing, and gladly would James McBride have warmed by a big fire place, with a bowl of bread and milk, instead of traveling in a robe of ice. After that he preferred the ferry. The distance was not often considered in a journey. George McPherren and Ephraim Johnson had made the trip to Oquawka. They were on their return with their ox-team. The winter storm began. The earth was soon mantled in her nightly gown. The air was full of the downy snow. Intense cold obtained. The party reached Bald bluff. Still the team pushed on as oxen did push, and hour after hour was traveled. Home surely could not be far, when, to their surprise and disappointment and danger, they found themselves again at Bald bluff. By this time McPherren's feet had somewhat frozen. Johnson opened the bosom of his shirt, and McPherren, placing one foot on each breast, gradually abstracted heat sufficient to warm the frozen members. Again the route homeward was resumed. They arrived after much suffering. These incidents but illustrate the journeys and experiences of many others.

The elder George McPherren and William Dilley visited their old home in Ohio. They returned by way of the lakes to Chicago, from which place they walked a distance of 180 miles home. In six days the feat was accomplished. Similar trips have been made to Galena to the land sales.

"Occasionally a farmer hauled his wheat to Chicago," says William I. Nevius, "bringing back a load of salt and other articles needed by



the families. They plodded on and on day after day through the prairie grass, fording creeks, some having their clothes so badly cut to pieces by the grass that they were compelled to change their *unmentionables* 'hind-side before to appear decent in their own crowd, not caring for the outside world, as the face of a human save one of their own crowd was seldom seen on the way." Some of the present might say the expenses of those trips must have equaled the profits, but not so. Food was carried from home for the journey. It was that or starve, for there was only here and there a house (or one here and none there). But little chance offered for expenditure of money. Their wheat was sold for forty-five or fifty cents per bushel, then all returned as happy as lords.

Long trips to mill soon became unnecessary. In the fall and winter of 1836 James McBride and Joseph Vernon built a saw-mill on Pope creek. This did the sawing for many years, but not the grinding. Vernon sold his share to John Stephens, who in turn sold it to Vanscook. The site finally became the property of Henry Kimel, who erected a good flouring-mill. This has given place to a far more extensive building and apparatus, now owned by James Kimel, although not on the same site as the old mill.

The trades were represented by the elder George McPherren as cooper. His work was scattered far and near, and many pieces still remain in use to testify to the workmanship. William Nevius was carpenter, shoemaker, and blacksmith. His work, too, was made to last and not for repairs. The works of these two men live after them. Since the war George Werts has been the village blacksmith. William Mackey kept the first store in 1836. John Stephens became the merchant in 1839. Since that day C. S. Richey and James Feather have sold goods, while the present firm is McCreight & Co. The first postmaster at Sunbeam was Samuel M. Dihel. Mary J. Williams, afterward Mrs. George McPherren, kept the postoffice for many years. Moses McIntyre has been postmaster of Duck Creek since its establishment.

The first secular school kept in the township was taught in a barn belonging to Capt. Richard Rice. The teacher to whom this honor is due was Miss Ruth Conner. The time was 1839, hence it is evident the early pioneers understood the necessity of education even for frontier life. It is said Miss Conner used to punish the children by putting them in the mangers of the stable when they desired other treatment than whipping. The first school-house was built on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 4, in 1841. This was built by subscription and so supported. It was not long before Thomas Candor and Samuel Cabeen

erected a log school edifice on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 7. As the population increased other schools were established. As circumstances improved the log building with its slab benches, etc., gave place to frame buildings. To-day nine good edifices give shelter to the bodies of many children, while their minds are instructed by as many able teachers. The enumeration of 1881 showed 447 persons under twenty-one years of age. Besides the nine districts there are some partial districts. Emily Paine, now the widow of Nathaniel Brownlee, was the first teacher at the Candor school. S. Hogan was a very early teacher. Perhaps no man has taught so long as E. Forsyth, who has been a teacher for over twenty years. He also taught for twenty years before coming to Illinois.

## ELECTIONS.

The first election was held at the house of George McPherrren, in the fall of 1836. For several years afterward voting was done at 'William I. Nevius' residence. The following is a list of the principal officers of the township since its organization:

Date of Election.	SUPERVISOR.	CLERK.	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR.
1855	James Burnet .....	T. S. Robb .....	John W. Dihel .....	Horace Williams.
1856	Samuel Cabeen .....	Samuel Miller .....	J. W. Cabeen .....	John H. McBride.
1857	Ashford Hardy .....	Samuel Miller .....	Horace Williams .....	Horace Williams.
1858	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. P. Gilmore .....	A. P. Brown.
1859	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. P. Gilmore .....	A. P. Brown.
1860	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. P. Gilmore .....	John H. McBride.
1861	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. B. Gilmore .....	John H. McBride.
1862	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	William I. Nevius .....	J. B. Gilmore.
1863	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. N. Markée .....	J. P. Gilmore.
1864	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. P. Gilmore .....	J. M. Hamilton.
1865	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	William I. Nevius .....	J. S. McCreight.
1866	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. S. McCreight.
1867	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	E. Forsyth .....	S. D. Paxton.
1868	William M. Hayes .....	E. Forsyth .....	E. Forsyth .....	S. D. Paxton.
1869	Horace N. Chandler .....	E. Forsyth .....	Alexander Pollock .....	S. D. Paxton.
1870	Horace N. Chandler .....	E. Forsyth .....	E. Forsyth .....	S. D. Paxton.
1871	Robert Candor .....	E. Forsyth .....	E. Forsyth .....	Joseph Carns.
1872	Horace N. Chandler .....	E. Forsyth .....	E. Forsyth .....	Joseph Carns.
1873	T. S. Robb .....	E. Forsyth .....	T. R. Gourley .....	Joseph Carns.
1874	Horace N. Chandler .....	J. W. Sidwell .....	E. Forsyth .....	Joseph Carns.
1875	T. S. Robb .....	J. W. Sidwell .....	M. M. Cross .....	Joseph Carns.
1876	Horace N. Chandler .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. W. Dilley .....	Joseph Carns.
1877	Horace N. Chandler .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. W. Dilley .....	J. S. Hamilton.
1878	Horace N. Chandler .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. W. Dilley .....	J. S. McCreight.
1879	Horace N. Chandler .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. S. Hamilton .....	J. S. McCreight.
1880	Horace N. Chandler .....	E. Forsyth .....	J. S. Hamilton .....	J. S. McCreight.
1881	Horace N. Chandler .....	E. Forsyth .....	D. J. B. Ross .....	J. S. McCreight.
1882	T. S. Robb .....	E. Forsyth .....	N. H. Guthrie .....	J. S. McCreight.

The justices of the peace have been T. S. Robb, Levi Butterfield, John W. Dihel, Andrew Carns, C. S. Richey, E. Forsyth, James Graham, H. M. Chandler, William S. McCormick. The present are E. Forsyth, and William S. McCormick.



The population of Ohio Grove township, according to the census of 1880, is: Male, 562; female, 494; total, 1,056. Assessed valuation of property, 1881, \$442,275; real estate, \$337,085; personal, \$95,190. Equalized by state board: Real estate, \$335,691; personal, \$94,883; total, \$430,574. The taxes for 1881 were: State, \$2,284.23; county, \$1,078.26; town, \$260.13; road and bridge, \$798.37; road, \$647.93; bond, \$2,004.01; coupon, \$231.55; district school, \$1,956.89; district road, \$245.42; dog, \$157.00. It must be remembered that tax valuation is far below real valuation of property.

Although Ohio Grove has no railroad, she has aided the county in securing such a valuable convenience. In 1870 the township voted \$7,000 toward building the American Central, since a branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. Bonds were issued at ten per cent, payable in three payments. About 1880 the bonds were refunded at eight per cent. In 1881 one-third the debt was paid. At present writing there is in the hands of supervisor Robb sufficient to meet the second payment. This indicates the early liquidation of the whole debt.

"Away back in bygone times,  
Buried mid the rubbish of forgotten things,"

are many incidents which cannot be recorded. Some are not forgotten. In those days, as to-day, there was marriage and giving in marriage. No bell sounded the hour, no wedding march pealed from a hundred pipes; but nature was full of music everywhere with cupid as chorister.

Benjamin Decker was born in Muskingum county, Ohio. There he was raised to the toil of a farm and scenes rustic as himself. Fannie McPherren also grew to blooming and blushing womanhood under similar circumstances. That *sprite*, ever casting glances from one to another, sought to do his wiley work as usual. When the removal was talked of the maid wondered how it would be with Benjamin. Benjamin decided to accompany, instead of follow, his betrothed; hence we find him assisting in building the first permanent house in Ohio Grove. He made his home with the McPherrens. Spring of 1837 came, with its verdure and flowers and music from a thousand throats. As cooed the doves, so wooed Benjamin and Fannie. No nuptial knot had yet been tied in Ohio Grove. Such was actually to take place June 15, 1837, about 11 A.M., at the residence of the bride's father, George McPherren. Invitations were extended and answered by Ashford Hardy and wife, James Moorehead and wife Matilda, James McBride and wife Polly, Richard Rice and wife Jane, Eliza Moorehead, afterward wife of William Dilley, John H.

McBride and his sister Almeda (John isn't married yet), Thomas B. Cabeen, George and Sarah McPherran, and perhaps a few others. Rev. John Porter, of the United Presbyterian church, was present. The bride was dressed in white. No orange blossoms decked her hair; she needed none. The groom was clad in brown. Rev. Porter pronounced the service that made these two hearts beat in unison, and the chords of whose lives vibrated harmony for so many years. The service over, some of the guests retired to their homes, while others remained to partake of the wedding dinner prepared by the bride's own labor. The patron had prepared a long, narrow table made of slabs. The table was spread with the best the country would afford. White bread and butter, pork, pickles from New York, furnished by a neighbor, fish caught in Pope creek, dried apples and peaches brought from Ohio, dried apple pie and dried peach pie, home-made maple syrup and coffee; no cakes and custards were indulged in. The style was simple, the couple were happy, and the guests retired to their homes to reflect and talk of the wedding, the "match" and the prospects. The paternal roof gave shelter till the following fall, when housekeeping was begun at Bridger's corner. The log cabin stood in the brush, was very small, meagerly furnished with home-made furniture. The nearest neighbors were Indians, who numbered from three to five hundred. For two years this brave couple lived in such a wilderness, when they erected a log cabin of their own. In four years more they removed to their parent's home to keep house for him. Mr. Decker became an independent farmer. Death ended his career March 20, 1875. His faithful bride and wife survives him. She is the mother of ten children. James lived to manhood, then died; Mary, Ester, Lucinda, Silas, Sarah A., Eva M., William L., George (dead).

Spring seems to have been a favorable time for beginning a new life; appropriately so, too. It was an April evening of 1840, when William C. Brownlee dropped into esquire Nevins' house and inquired for the squire. The squire was away, but would be back at dusk; so, also, would this young man. A short journey was made by the young man. When he returned the squire was at supper. The young man was accompanied by a young lady, Miss Mary A. Brownlee, a very distant relative. Conversation of a lively style was indulged in. As the squire finished his meal, young Brownlee produced a suspicious looking document, which soon explained itself. Ceremony was actually called for. The company was then gathered in the squire's *smoke-house*. The squire, with all the dignity of his office, administered the service. It was dark. The squire suggested the couple



remain till the morning. The good wife of the squire then performed her part of the ceremony, and the twain were safely couched for the night. Thus occurred the smoke-house services, which have ever been a reminiscence of merriment to old and young.

#### RELIGIOUS.

Says William I. Nevius in his notes: "The first public worship in Ohio Grove was enjoyed in the cabin of the elder George McPherren, and conducted by Rev. John Wallace, an Associate Reformed Presbyterian. The McPherrens were Methodists, but his door was open to all religious teachers. In 1837 Rev. John Montgomery, a missionary of the Old School Presbyterian denomination, visited the settlement, and held public worship at Mr. McPherren's for some time, then at the house of William I. Nevius, and little later at Thomas Candor's. The congregation in 1837 numbered about twenty persons. There were the McPherrens, George Smith and family, Ashford Hardy and family, Richard Rice and family, in 1836; William Moore and family, the Candors, Cabeens, McBrides, and Neviuses, in 1837. Rev. Wallace preached till as late as 1841."

According to the researches of Elijah Forsyth, an Associate Reformed (now U. P.) congregation was organized in 1842, consisting of Jane Rice, Elenor Moorehead, Phebe Smith, Sophia Hardy, William Moore, William McMichael, Ella McMichael, Josiah Moor, Samuel Moor, of Ohio Grove; George Jay and Agnes Jay, of Keithsburg; John, Elizabeth, Ann, Jane and Elenor Collins, of Twin grove. Services were held in the groves, at school-houses or in the barn of Wm. I. Nevius. For some time immediately previous to 1852, J. C. Porter ministered to this congregation one-fourth of the time. D. C. Cochran and Revs. Fulton, Morrow and Finley also labored here. May 5, 1852, the congregation was reorganized. Robert Miller and William M. Hayes were elected ruling elders; Rev. J. C. Porter officiating. William M. Hayes, Robert M. Miller and George Smith, trustees. At a meeting of the session, William M. Hayes was elected clerk, which office he held till 1869. At that time the membership was forty-five. In 1853 sixteen joined by certificate and two on examination. From 1853 to 1859, Rev. M. Bigger labored as stated supply. In 1854 twenty-two joined on certificate and fourteen on examination; in 1855, thirty-seven by certificate and eight on examination. In 1853 to 1855 a house of worship was erected at Sunbeam, 40×60 and twenty feet from floor to ceiling. This was largely the result of the liberality, untiring energy and perseverance of William M. Hayes, an honored member. In 1860 Rev. J. H. Nash became pastor. In 1877 Rev.

D. F. Mustard began his labors. The church numbered at one time 163 persons. Its present membership is about 100. The ruling elders have been, besides those named, J. H. McCreight, Elijah Forsyth, Samuel Wright, John Torbit, M. M. Cross, Alex Pollock, David Milligan, N. Reasoner, J. P. Finley, and R. H. Gülinger. David Milligan, Elijah Forsyth and J. P. Finley are now in the congregation of Sunbeam. In 1848-9, Thomas Candor built the Candor Presbyterian church. Rev. Montgomery remained its minister till his death. This church is further noticed in the history of Abington township.

The first Methodist services were held at McBride's by Rev. Burr. The school-house was next used as a church. In 1844 a great revival was conducted in George McPherren's barn. People came thirty miles, camping out. The McPherrens, McBrides, Browns, Mooreheads and others were members of the church. Horace Williams was class-leader, and able in his duty. George Williams also occupied the position early. An effort was made to build a church, but failed. Finally George McPherren proposed to advance the money and build the church. His offer was accepted and the church, 35×45, built about 1860, at a cost of \$1,400, without much of the labor reckoned. The house was dedicated by Elder Frank Smith, for years a laborer in the neighborhood. Other early preachers were William Hanly, Elder Cullis and others. Other early class-leaders were Peter Stephens and Abraham Crabtree. Just after the dedication the church enjoyed a great revival, receiving about sixty additions. The present board of stewards consists of George McPherren, Peter Stephens, George Williams, Solomon Guthrie, William Frankleberry. Rev. Ayers is in charge.

#### CEMETERIES.

Three spots are especially dear to the early settlers of Ohio Grove. When the toils and hardships were over the pioneer was at rest. There was no "Cavendish Duke of Devonshire" with his five thousand tenants to follow a son to the grave. But family and neighbors equally royal followed their loved and respected to burial. The plat known as McClure's Cemetery, formerly McPherren's, was donated for the purpose by the elder George McPherren. How sad and tearful were they who followed the remains of John Moorehead, deceased August 8, 1836, to the dedication of that sacred spot. This was the first funeral service in Ohio Grove. The first death of a pioneer; the beginning of that funeral march that has so oft been resumed in subsequent years. The yard is dotted with graves. Here lie Ashford Hardy, George McPherren, George W. Stephens, John M. Walker,



Thomas Moorehead, Dorcas Moorehead, Barnet Unangst and wife, Wm. Smith, Mrs. Wm. Dilley; the Browns, Calhouns, Benjamin Decker, Bentleys, McKees, Guthries and others. The Candor graveyard was dedicated by the burial of Mrs. Thomas Candor. The ground was set apart for a cemetery by Thomas Candor. He now rests near his loved companion. Here too lie Samuel, and Joshua W., and Samuel P. Cabeen, and others of the families of that name. Judge Wm. G. Hayes, so long an honor to himself and his people, found a resting place here. Wm. I. Nevius, Henry Kimel, Capt. James Burnet, John Seaton and wife, Wm. R. McCreight, James H. McCreight, James McBride, Dennis Conner and wife Mary, Dr. A. B. Campbell, John Cameron; the Websters, Williamses, Dittos, Joneses and others.

The United Presbyterian cemetery was so called from the donor of the ground, William Miller, a prominent member of the United Presbyterian church. Its sod covers the bodies of Robert and Samuel Miller, Nancy Miller, T. E. Home and Wm. G. Paxton. Thomas B. More of company A, 30th Ill. Vols., to whose memory is inscribed:

"Death has been here, and borne away,  
A brother from our side,  
Just in the memory of his day  
A brave young soldier died."

Here too rest J. P. Paxton, James L. Paxton, Catharine Paxton, Wm. H. Ryan, Dorcas, wife of M. M. Cross, James G. Walker and others. Many a grave is unmarked by marble, therefore ye visitors

Tread lightly, this is hallowed ground;  
Tread reverently here;  
Beneath this sod in silence sleeps the brave old pioneer:  
Who never quailed in darkest hour,  
Whose heart ne'er felt a fear.  
Tread lightly then, and now bestow a tribute of a tear.  
Forever in the fiercest and the thickest of the fight  
The dusk and swarthy foeman felt the terror of his might.

Bidding good-bye to the honored dead, we introduce the reader to the living, whose brief sketches following will grow of more importance as the years shall finish their probation.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

SAMUEL P. CABEEN (deceased), was among the old settlers of Mercer county, and among those men who have developed its resources and propagated within its boundaries progressive institutions. He came when the country was new; when patience, industry and energy were required as qualities of the man whose life should eventually be

marked a "success." That Mr. Cabeen was successful many yet live to testify. Mr. Cabeen was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, January 18, 1820. He came to Mercer county, Illinois, with his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth (Wright) Cabeen. He was a young man fitted for his future by former training. He purchased land from time to time till he owned about 600 acres, the most of which he improved. In politics Mr. Cabeen was always strongly democratic, yet he never craved office. His religion was of the Universalist doctrine. He was a good citizen, a kind father and a faithful husband. Mr. Cabeen died February 16, 1880, and is buried at the Candor graveyard. Mr. Cabeen was first married to Catherine Spencer, who died, leaving one child, Sarah E. He was next married August 17, 1854, to Catharine J. Thomas, daughter of Solomon and Matilda (Gabrel) Thomas. Mrs. Cabeen was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, February 13, 1827. Three children have been born to them: Emma J., now Mrs. Jerred Irwin; Arthur, and Samuel G.

JOSHUA W. CABEEN (deceased), son of Samuel and Elizabeth Cabeen, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, January 4, 1818, and emigrated west with his people. He was married February 8, 1872, to Rebecca N. Frick, daughter of Frederick and Nancy (Wilson) Frick, who have figured prominently in Abington township and in county affairs. Both were natives of Danville, Columbia (now Montour) county, Pennsylvania. They are fully noticed elsewhere. Mrs. Cabeen was born in Pennsylvania January 2, 1833, and came west with her parents. Mr. Cabeen settled where Mrs. Cabeen now lives. He secured a fine farm, and in 1873 erected a good, substantial dwelling. He died June 1, 1878, leaving wife and two children (Fred E. and Joshua D.) to mourn his loss. He is buried at Candor graveyard.

SAMUEL CABEEN (deceased), another of Mercer county's very early settlers. He was born in county Antrim, Ireland, 1788. He emigrated to Philadelphia in 1808. His people were farmers and weavers. He was a general workman. He clerked in Bristol, Pennsylvania, for his brother. He was married to Elizabeth P. Wright, a native of Bucks county, Pennsylvania. In that year (1815) Mr. and Mrs. Cabeen moved to Muskingum county, Ohio. In 1836 he emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois. His subsequent history is in the general history of Ohio Grove township. He died May 1, 1856, leaving his wife to survive him till December 6, 1874. He was a democrat, and loved to argue politics. He was county school commissioner several years; was justice of the peace in Ohio. He served in the war of 1812, in Gen. Izzard's division. Six children were born in Ohio: Thomas B., J. W., S. P., R. J., R. B., and Sarah C. Sarah C. died, aged fourteen



years. Richard B. Cabeen was born May 31, 1826, in Muskingum county, Ohio. His educational advantages were limited. His life has been one of farm toil. When twenty-four years of age he visited California two years and four months. He returned to the farm. He was married December 29, 1853, to Miss Jane G. Pinkerton, daughter of Joseph and Violet Pinkerton, of Green township. Mrs. Cabeen was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, October 22, 1835. They settled on their present farm. In 1878 he built the present handsome dwelling. Children number nine: Joshua, Ella V., Alice J., Margaret P., Scott, Sarah E., and Richard F. Mr. Cabeen is democratic in politics. He is a successful farmer.

THOMAS CANDOR (deceased) was a type of the men who braved so much that this western wild might grow to usefulness. He was plain, honest, and progressive, looking not only to the rescue of the soil from its wild state, but also the upbuilding of the minds and souls of the rising generation, who now follow his teachings, both precept and example. He was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, February 29, 1796. His father was a Scotchman, and his mother Irish. Farming was their occupation. Thomas was meagerly educated. In his youth he learned the tanning trade, which he afterward followed for some time. He was married to Margaret Montgomery, daughter of John Montgomery, whose brother was proprietor of Danville, Pennsylvania. Her brother, Rev. John Montgomery, was the first preacher in Mercer county, and Hopkins Boone, an old settler here, was a brother-in-law. The fall of 1836 Thomas and Robert Candor (brothers) made the trip from Pennsylvania to Mercer county on horseback. Having secured a land claim for the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, also S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 7, he, in company with his brother Robert, sold their horses and returned to Pennsylvania by river. He sold his tannery, and in the fall of 1837 moved westward overland, bringing family of wife and five children: John M., Robert, Josiah, Mary H., and Daniel M., and leaving one (Elizabeth) buried in Pennsylvania. Having arrived in Mercer county, after a short stay in Keithsburg the family moved into the little log house on their farm formerly entered. The house was partly built by William Sheriff, by order of Mr. Candor. Ere few years had passed Mrs. Candor died (September 30, 1841), leaving a family and friends to mourn their loss. Her burial was a dedication of the Candor graveyard. Mr. Candor was next married to Mary L. Boardman, who died May 27, 1874. Mr. Candor died March 13, 1871, and was buried near his partner. From the laying out of Aledo he lived in town. He was a man foremost in good works, yet a quiet, careful, non-speculative man. He never had a lawsuit with any man. He was an elder in the Presby-



SAMUEL P. CABEEN.  
( DECEASED )





terian church, and foremost in building the Candor church. His politics were whig and republican. Of his family, John N. graduated at Princeton College, and, in the third year of his theological course at Princeton Theological Seminary, died in the twenty-fourth year of his age. He is buried at Danville, Pennsylvania. Josiah, Mary (the first wife of Graham Lee), Daniel M., and Robert. Robert Candor was born May 4, 1828, in Columbia county, Pennsylvania. He married Rebecca J., daughter of John and Anna (McGaughey) Linn. Her father was a native of Ohio, and her mother of Pennsylvania. Both came to Mercer county in 1839 and settled near Viola. He died August 27, 1851. He was in the war of 1812. Mrs. Candor was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, April 2, 1829. After marriage Mr. Candor farmed in Rock Island county fourteen years, and was there justice of the peace. He sold and moved to Mercer county. In 1872 he built a fine residence, 32×56, two-story. Both belong to the Presbyterian church, in which he is an elder. They have six children: John M., Thomas H., Ward L., Sarah (now Mrs. A. W. Hill), Maggie (now Mrs. W. S. Ross), and Mary L.

GEORGE MCPHERREN (deceased) was born in County Down, Ireland, February 1, 1781. He emigrated when eighteen years of age on account of the military commotion of those times. He settled in New Jersey, near the western line. There he learned the cooper trade, which he followed most of his life. He was married to Susannah Walker, by whom he became the father of ten children: Mary, James, Susannah, Easter, Daniel, Nancy, Fannie, Sarah, George, Jr., and Andrew. He enlisted in the war of 1812, and while in the campaign viewed different parts of the country. He determined to locate in Ohio, and moved to Muskingum county about 1814. There he followed his trade for about twenty-one years, also overseeing his farming interest, but is believed never to have plowed a furrow himself. In Ohio, June 8, 1824, he buried his wife: a severe stroke to him. She lies in the cemetery at Rich Hill church. Mr. McPherrren moved his family westward in 1835, starting September 21st, and settled in Mercer county, Illinois, in that part that afterward became Ohio Grove township. He died June 23, 1848, and was buried in the McClure graveyard. He forms a prominent figure in the history of the township; hence we dismiss him here by saying that in politics he was a strong whig, in religion a Methodist, at his trade a good workman, and at heart a true man. His namesake and ninth child, George McPherrren, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, August 22, 1820, hence was a pioneer youth of Mercer county, and still lives to aid in chronicling the events that go to make the history of Mercer county.



His life since his fifteenth year has been synchronous with the pulse of the country. His hand has done its share toward making the county what it is, but will soon leave his children to carry on the work he has so well impelled thus far. Mr. McPherren has 460 acres of land, well improved, and has given farms to his sons. He was first married October 1, 1844, to Harriet O. Williams, who died February 11, 1870, leaving seven children: Oliver, Nancy J., Henry, Sophia, Emma, Hannah, and Anna. He was next married April 5, 1871, to Mary J. Williams, a sister to his former wife. She was the first postmistress of Sunbeam, and held the position many years, thus supporting her invalid parents. She died March 31, 1882. Both she and her sister, together with Mr. McPherren, have been for many years members of the Methodist church, uniting with that church about 1844. George H., son of George and Harriet McPherren, was born in Mercer county, Illinois, June 19, 1853. His life has been spent in Mercer county, mostly on the farm. He received a common school education. In 1877 he became a resident of Aledo. In 1882 he engaged in the meat business. May 1st of same year he associated himself with Samuel Brown, but has since sold to his partner. Mr. McPherren also has a farm of 160 acres of land, which he oversees. He was married December 24, 1871, to Miss Eliza A., daughter of Samuel Price. She was born in Pennsylvania, September 9, 1851. Her mother is now Mrs. E. J. Moore, but whose maiden name was Emily Klinefelter. Mr. McPherren has four children living: Emily O., William H., Maggie M., Frank and Freddie E. (twins), Freddie E. having died at the age of seventeen months.

JAMES MCBRIDE (deceased) was one of the earliest and most honored of Mercer county's pioneers. His ancestry was Scotch, Irish, Welch and German. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and was there raised. The war of 1812 found him a member of the light horse company. He was engaged at Fort Meigs. There was a ditch before the fort, and into this bombs were rolled for the purpose of blowing up the fort. Mr. McBride accidentally fell into the ditch, and a bomb was precipitated on him. Fortunately the captain rescued him just previous to the explosion, but he suffered afterward from the accident. He returned to Pennsylvania and married Mary Houseman, then sixteen years of age, also a native of Pennsylvania and of Dutch descent. In 1816 they settled in Muskingum county, Ohio, ten miles east of Zanesville. His chief business was flat-boating, and he made six trips to New Orleans. He was captain for some time. In 1836 he emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, coming from Wheeling, Virginia, to Rock Island, via Ohio and Mississippi rivers, on flat-boats. He

arrived in Mercer county May 10th, and camped on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 4, T. 13 N., R. 3. He bought two claims, \$175 being the price paid for half a section with a little log house on it. His family consisted of wife and five children: John H., Almeda, James C., Elvira J., and Sarah E. He died November 14, 1847, leaving his wife to survive him till March 17, 1879. Both were members of the Methodist church. In Illinois he confined himself to milling and farming. His life was quiet and unostentatious, loved by those who knew him, little education, but with a wonderful memory, careful and successful in business, democratic in politics. Of his children, James C. is in Colorado, but has his home in Aledo. John H., born April 8, 1821, has spent his life on the farm, mostly in Mercer county. He owns the old homestead of 486 acres, on which he erected a handsome residence, and is a thrifty farmer. He is democratic and a single man. Elvira J. was born September 20, 1828. She was married June 27, 1850, to Dr. A. B. Campbell, a native of Ohio and a graduate of Columbia Medical College, where his brother was professor of surgery. He settled in Keithsburg, being the second doctor of that place. He practiced fifteen years, and died June 4, 1860, leaving wife and two children: Maud, and Jake H., who live with her brother, John H.

JOHN H. BROWN (deceased) was one of the most sturdy pioneers of Mercer county. He was born in Seneca county, New York, January 3, 1797. He is said to have aided in the battle of Niagara in the war of 1812, assisting in guarding the bridge over Niagara river. He received a recompense for these services. His father was a revolutionary soldier, receiving a land warrant for his services. The Browns were early settlers of Ohio. John H. was raised on the farm, but for some time was a brick moulder with his brothers. In 1815 he was married to Mary McPherren. In 1836 he moved to Mercer county, Illinois, where he became well known before his death, which occurred August 11, 1871. He was warm in the advocacy of his political doctrine, always ready to talk whig and, later, republican principles. He came to Mercer county a poor man, but before his death he owned at one time a thousand acres of land. His wife Mary (McPherren) was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and lives with her daughter, Mrs. McCaw. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were long members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Brown is now connected with the Christian church. In their family are thirteen children: Alexander, George, John, Sarah J., James M., William, Daniel, all born in Muskingum county, Ohio; and, born in Mercer county, Illinois, viz: Hugh, Benjamin L., Josias F., Francis M., Mary, Johannah. William Brown was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, May 6, 1832. He has



spent his life on the farm, having risen from poverty in a log cabin to a farmer and owner of 265 acres of land. He was married June 29, 1854, to Drusilla Libby, daughter of Rev. Thomas Libby, of Maine. She was born in Maine, June 3, 1832, and came to Mercer county, Illinois, about 1843. Her parents died here, and are buried in Suez township. Her father was a Baptist minister. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brown settled on forty acres in section 1, Ohio Grove township. This Mr. Brown sold, then bought 200 acres in Suez township, which he also sold, and bought his present farm. They have had ten children, nine of whom are living: Warren, George, Hiram L. (dead), Alva C., William F., Joseph F. S., Marion W., Josiah F., Freddie M., and Thomas J. Alexander Brown, one of the wealthiest farmers of Ohio Grove township and the oldest son of John H. and Mary Brown, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, June 23, 1821. When a youth of fifteen he came to Mercer county. His labor was such as general farm work, but especially in driving ox-team, hauling saw logs in an early day, etc. That hard toil has proven a success is evident from the fact that he now owns 591 acres of Mercer county land, well improved. In 1847 he visited his native place, and later Indiana, returning in 1849. For many years he kept bachelor's hall, not marrying till 1855, when Lucinda Saunders became his wife. She is a daughter of George Saunders, of Knox county, Illinois, and a native of Ohio. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brown lived in a hewn log cabin on the eighty acres on which his present house stands. They have ten children, living.

WILLIAM I. NEVIUS (deceased) was so identified with the history of Mercer county and is so often mentioned in connection with its history that it is necessary to give but few facts in a special sketch. His father, John W., and his mother, Mary (Roland) Nevius, were natives of New Brunswick, New Jersey, and were there married. They made their homes in Mercer county, Illinois, in 1837, living with their son William I. till the following year. In 1838 Mr. Nevius bought property in Millersburg, where he buried his wife, her death occurring April 14, 1847. He then made his home with his son till his death, October 12, 1854. Both rest in Millersburg cemetery. Mr. Nevius was for several years probate judge. His daughter, Mrs. Eliza Brady, resides in Millersburg. His son William I. was born August 9, 1801, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. When young his parents moved to Greene county, Ohio, 1818. December 12, 1822, he was married to Miss Mary A. Currie, who died, leaving four daughters and one son. He was next married March 1, 1830, to Mary A. Pierce. She was born in Greene county, Ohio, April 25, 1807. William I. Nevius was but

meagerly educated in books, but his hands were taught to do what mind might dictate. With tools he was handy. He learned the carpenter's trade, and this furnished him employment when not otherwise engaged. In 1832 he moved to Warren county, Illinois. In 1835 he settled in New Boston township, Mercer county, Illinois. In 1837 he changed his location to Ohio Grove township, where he improved land and lived till his death, June 10, 1877. "Peace hath her victories no less than war." In the conflict of life, as a man, as a pioneer, Mr. Nevius closed his life in victory. He was active in the welfare of his county. During the war he was deputy provost marshal. In politics he was whig and republican. He was a member of the United Presbyterian church at his death, but in earlier years was connected with the old school Presbyterian church. His sons Henry, John, and David M. served their country in the civil war, and William D. gave his life at Shiloh that his country might live, while David was drowned while crossing the Cumberland river at Clarksville, Tennessee. Mr. Nevius was the father of five children in his first family and nine children in his second family. Mrs. Nevius lives, an active, strong-minded woman, and interesting to all around her.

WILLIAM T. PATTERSON, farmer, was born April 13, 1808, in parish of Ray, county Donegal, Ireland, nine miles from Londonderry. His father, Joseph Patterson, was owner of some of the Glebe land. He died there, aged eighty-seven years. Mr. Patterson's mother, Eleanor (Teas), was a native of parish of Teboyne, county Donegal, and her father, William Teas, was a tenant of Marquis of Ebercorn. William Teas Patterson left Ireland March 8, 1840, via London and Liverpool to New York, in the Robert Fulton steamboat and vessel Sheridan. He was four weeks on the journey. He came to Chicago, there hired a teamster for Henry county, Illinois, and then went to Nauvoo, where he staid over Sunday. He visited Joseph Smith, the Mormon, at his home, and heard Sydney Rigdon preach, and saw the sacrament administered. He peddled some time through this section. After remaining about two years in this section, he bought eighty acres of land, which he paid for largely in building sod fences. He subsequently sold and bought and improved a number of farms. July 19, 1846, he was married to Mrs. Sarah M. Brownlee, widow of Samuel L. Brownlee. Mrs. Brownlee had a family of four children by her first husband: Lemon, dead; Oliver F., in Iowa; Samantha, now Mrs. J. L. Henderson, of Kansas; and Agnes M., now Mrs. John Lawton, of Pennsylvania. Since her last marriage three children have been born: Joseph H., dead; David B., in Iowa; Mary M., now Mrs. William Maxwell, of Kansas; Letitia E., now Mrs. James



C. Spicer, of Mercer county. Mr. Patterson has given each child of age, eighty acres of land, or its equivalent, and owns 150 acres well improved himself. He is a republican, and was first a freesoiler. He and wife are connected with the United Presbyterian church.

JONATHAN DUNCAN (deceased) was born near Baltimore, Maryland, November 19, 1791, and was a son of Andrew and Ann (Smith) Duncan. He received a liberal education for his time, supplemented by healthy toil of the farm. He thus became vigorous in both mind and body. He became a carpenter by trade, and was the builder of the large hotel of fifty rooms at Mineral Springs, Pennsylvania. He also became extensively engaged in the wool business. He was at one time a large stockholder in a number of stage lines in Pennsylvania, owning a large farm where he fed his horses for the line. It was in 1815 when he moved to Washington county, Pennsylvania. He is familiarly known as Col. Duncan, having enlisted in the war of 1812, as lieutenant, and later, being promoted colonel. Very many of the colonel's best years were actively spent in Pennsylvania. There he lived till the year 1854. He had made a trip to Illinois in 1853, purchasing 260 acres in sections 26 and 27, Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, Illinois. In 1854 he moved his family via the river to Keithsburg and thence to his farm. Here he lived till 1874. He improved his farm and became a factor in the county's progress. He was on intimate terms with the lamented Judge William M. Hayes, and made many friends by his good nature and industry. In politics he was always democratic, but sought no political emolument. In religion he was of the United Presbyterian faith. He aided in building Sunbeam church. Mr. Duncan moved to Monmouth in 1874, to live in retirement. On September 10, 1876, while visiting his son, Dr. J. K. Duncan, at Des Moines, Iowa, death claimed him. He was buried at Monmouth, Illinois. Mr. Duncan was first married to Miss Letha Swearengen. She died, leaving four children. He was next married June 29, 1835, to Miss Agnes Leeper, daughter of Robert and Nancy Leeper, both of whom were born in York county, and died in Washington county, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Duncan was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, June 10, 1815. She now resides with her son in Mercer county. Mr. Duncan's first family are: William Duncan, of Mercer county; Thomas, of Des Moines, Iowa; Sarah, now Mrs. William McCanless, of Crescent, Iowa. Mr. McCanless was a prominent man of Mercer county, having owned the land on which Aledo is built; also, laid out the town. He was lieutenant in company A, 84th Ill. Vol., and was killed at the battle of Chattanooga. Dr. Bazil Duncan was army surgeon one year. He

is now dead. In the second family are : Robert, who served in the civil war in company F, 17th Ill. Vol., and was promoted second lieutenant ; Dr. J. K. Duncan, who was in the naval service ; he was captain of a gun on the gunboat "Fort Hyman ;" seizing an enemy's hot shell, thrown on board and endangering the lives of his men, he threw it into the river, suffering his hands and arms to be severely burned by the operation. For this feat he was promoted captain of the gun-boat. He took sick and was sent to Pensacola hospital, Florida. Being there at the time of the yellow fever scourge, and having studied medicine, he was retained as surgeon and physician three years, on a salary of \$2,000. He is now of Nebraska. The other children are : Isophena, James, Andrew (dead), Nettie, Arnett, Charles, Frank and Ida. Arnett was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, January 28, 1850. He was married to Carrie, daughter of J. B. Gilmore. She was born near Oxford, Ohio. Arnett now owns 100 acres of the old homestead ; also, 160 acres besides, well improved.

THOMAS S. ROBB, farmer, is a son of William and Mary (Livingston) Robb, the former of whom was born in county Tyrone, Ireland, 1775, and emigrated to America when a young man ; and the latter a native of Pennsylvania, and whose parents were Scotch. Both died in Pennsylvania in 1845. In their family were nine children, who are now widely scattered. James and Thomas became identified with Mercer county, Illinois, interests in 1851 and 1852 respectively, and are to-day among the well to do. Thomas S. was born in Pennsylvania, August 16, 1825, and there married Martha A. Campbell, daughter of James Campbell. She is also a native of Pennsylvania, the date of her birth being May 10, 1830. In 1851 Mr. Robb was appointed by Gov. Johnson, of Pennsylvania, as commissioner to the World's Fair, held in London, England, in the year 1851. Besides performing his duties in London, Mr. Robb visited the principal cities of England, Scotland and France, before returning to his own country. Mr. Robb has served Ohio Grove township, as supervisor, for four different terms.

JOHN McCLELLAN was born December 20, 1826, in Washington county, Pennsylvania. His father was Francis McClellan, also a native of Washington county, but whose father came from Donegal county, Ireland, about 1813, and died in Pennsylvania at the age of ninety-eight years. Margaret Brownlee, the mother of John, was also a native of Pennsylvania, but her parents were from Scotland. In the family of Francis and Margaret McClellan were eight children, all Pennsylvanians, of whom but three are living in Mercer county, viz. : Thomas, Francis and John. John emigrated to Illinois in 1850,



buying 100 acres of the land on which he now lives, being in sections 33 and 34, Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, Illinois. Mr. McClellan has improved the farm mostly himself, and owns 150 acres of land. He was married January 12, 1854, to Miss Elizabeth Brownlee, daughter of William and Catharine (Hutchison) Brownlee, both Pennsylvanians, but of Scotch descent. The Brownlees came to Mercer county in 1852. Mrs. McClellan was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1831. They have had five children: Francis, died August 22, 1866; Margaret, Renorick, Clara and Lawrence.

WILLIAM MCCREIGHT (deceased) was born November 27, 1818, in Adams county, Ohio, and was a son of Ephraim and Sarah (Cummins) McCreight, both from South Carolina. Mr. McCreight was raised on the farm. He acquired a very good education for his time and taught to some extent. He was somewhat a genius, able to use many tools and execute. In Ohio he was captain of a company of state militia. He drilled for the Mexican war, but was not called out. In the spring of 1851 he emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, landing at Keithsburg, April 1. He first rented from his brother-in-law, Judge William M. Hayes. About 1856 he purchased sixty acres of land which he improved. He afterward added another eighty acres. Mr. McCreight died July 11, 1869, and is buried in Candor graveyard. He had taught school here. He was a leading member of the United Presbyterian church from youth. In politics he was whig, abolitionist, and republican. He cast the only abolition vote cast in Ohio Grove township at one election. He was honest, straightforward and of strong convictions. This made him perhaps second to none in influence among men. Mr. McCreight was married in 1843 to Polly Hayes, daughter of John and Martha Hayes, both natives of South Carolina. Mrs. McCreight was born in Adams county, Ohio, March 2, 1822. Three children were born in Ohio: Ira S., Leslie D., and Seldon J. The family own the old homestead. Mr. McCreight's brothers, E. P. and Samuel, served in the civil war in company A, 30th Ill. Vol. John S. in company G, 30th Ill. Vol., and A. O. in company D, 83d Ill. Vol.

WILLIAM PEPPER is a son of Charles and Susan Pepper; was born in Cambridgeshire, England, May 2, 1822. His grandfather was butler to Pembroke College, Cambridge, and his father was also engaged in the same institution, and William Pepper spent many days with his father at the college. In 1832 the family set sail from St. Catharine docks, London, in the ship Thames, and after five weeks and three days, arrived in New York. They spent six weeks in New

York city and six weeks in Utica, New York, then settled in Oswego county, New York, where they resided eighteen or nineteen years and cleared a farm of forty acres from the big timber. In 1849 William Pepper came West to Mercer county, Illinois, but spent the following year in Wisconsin. He then returned to Mercer county and worked for Samuel Cabeen. March 3, 1852, he was married to Jane Martin, daughter of William and Susan (McClellan) Martin. The Martins were very early settlers and are noticed elsewhere. Mrs. Pepper was born in Ohio, near Goshen, Indiana. After marriage Mr. Pepper lived one year in Keithsburg, then settled his present home farm of eighty-nine acres, March 1, 1853. He has improved his place, building and re-building till he owns a pleasant place. Mr. and Mrs. Pepper are members of the Presbyterian church. He is a free voter, voting for Lincoln's second term.

WILLIAM HENDERSON (deceased) was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, April 18, 1811. His parents, John and Margaret (Moore) Henderson, were natives of Pennsylvania. They moved to Guernsey county, Ohio, in the fall of 1811. John Henderson died about 1845, and his wife in 1859. They are buried in Pleasant Hill cemetery. Mr. H. was justice of the peace for twenty-one years, with the exception of two odd years. He was in the war of 1812. William Henderson, the subject of these memoirs, was the third child in a family of seven. He was but a few months old when his parents settled in Ohio. He was educated in the common schools of his time, but the farm occupied largely his life. As an additional means for gaining an honest and competent livelihood, he learned the shoemakers trade, which busied him when other labor was wanting. In 1834 he was married to Amelia M. Henderson. His wife died in 1840, leaving two children: Susannah C. and Margaret A. He was next married December 29, 1842, to Rose A. Dool, daughter of Robert and Margaret Dool. Her parents were natives of county Antrim, Ireland. Mrs. Henderson's birth occurred on board vessel in Belfast Bay May 3, 1819, before the vessel set sail that was to bring the family to America. Robert Dool died in Harrison county, Ohio. His wife lives at the age of ninety years. Mr. Henderson emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1860, renting a farm between New Boston and Aledo. In March, 1862, he purchased the farm in Ohio Grove township of 160 acres, being the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 10. This he improved somewhat. He died March 20, 1877. He was buried in the United Presbyterian graveyard. Mr. Henderson was a man of life and good will to men. In politics he was whig, in whig times, then became a northern democrat. In Ohio he was several years deacon in the



United Presbyterian church. In his second family are nine children: Robert enlisted in company A., 30th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and was transferred to the engineer corps. He served the last sixteen months of the war. He was not nineteen years old when he enlisted. John and Jane received their educations at Monmouth Academy, and hold first grade certificates and command highest wages in teaching. William R. owns forty acres of the home farm. The other children are: Mattie, Bell (dead), Elizabeth, Henry and Mary.

WILLIAM DILLEY, farmer, is one of the very few pioneers left to tell the story of the county's young days. Mr. Dilley was born October 4, 1801, in Sussex county, New Jersey. He is the third in a family of nine children. His father and mother, Aaron and Jane (Storey) Dilley, were natives of New Jersey, and resided there till about 1818, when they removed to Trumbull county, Ohio, where they died. William Dilley worked on the farm till grown. He then worked in a woolen factory, carding, spinning, fulling, etc. May, of 1836, a desire for the west attracted him hither, and in that year he arrived in Mercer county, Illinois. He had shipped a carding machine to Oquawka via the river for his future use. He lived in Green township till 1848, when he removed to his present home in Ohio Grove. Mr. Dilley was married in 1837 to Eliza Moorehead, daughter of John and Elenor Moorehead, early settlers of Mercer county. She was born November 24, 1816. Mr. Dilley owned 120 acres in Green township, which he sold. He bought 320 acres in Ohio Grove. He now owns 165 acres. Mrs. Dilley died April 18, 1877. She was the mother of nine children: Aaron S., John W. (dead), Celesia, Mary, Samtha, Cyrus, Seth, Nellie, (infant dead). Cyrus left home several years ago and has not been heard of since. Aaron S. enlisted in the 9th Ill. Vol., and John W. enlisted in the 84th Ill. Vol. Each served about three years in the civil war. Mr. Dilley has been whig, abolitionist, and republican in politics.

HAMMOND WEBSTER (deceased) was born, raised and married in Massachusetts. Both he and his wife, Louisa Richardson, also a native of Massachusetts, were engaged in the famous Girard factories of Massachusetts. They moved to New York state. In 1843 they emigrated to Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, Illinois, and purchased the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, and afterward added N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28. Mr. Webster died in 1845 and is buried in the Candor graveyard. His wife, at present writing (1882), survives him. He was justice of the peace several years. He was an old line whig. The children were: Albert, Theodore L., William, and Mariah (now Mrs. Robert Parkison). William Webster was born in New York, Alleghany county, June 1,

1831, and came west with his people. His father dying, left William to work and do for himself at fourteen years of age. He spent till twenty-five years of age working round and renting a farm. He was married in 1858 to Julia A. Wing, daughter of Oliver and Julina (Harrington) Wing, both natives of Massachusetts but who died in Ohio. Mrs. Webster was born in Springfield, Pennsylvania, November 29, 1821. When twelve years old moved to Ohio, then came west to Mercer county. After marriage Mr. Webster purchased his present farm, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30, which he has earned with toil and so well improved. He has two children: Edith and Harriet L. In politics he is democratic. He has been ten years a school director.

JAMES GRAHAM (deceased), was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, June 26, 1809, and was a son of John and Martha (Hutchinson) Graham, both natives of Chester county, Pennsylvania. The Grahams were Pennsylvania frontier pioneers. James Graham was married March 4, 1835, to Mary Stewart, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Welsh) Stewart. She was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, May 10, 1814. Her father was born in county Armagh, Ireland, and emigrated when nine years old. He died in Virginia and is buried in Elizabethtown. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church. His wife died in Mercer county, and lies in Norwood cemetery. James Graham moved to Illinois in 1842, spending two years in Warren county. In 1845 he settled in Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, where he bought the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35. This he improved. He died November 25, 1879. He was an elder in the United Presbyterian church. In politics he had been free-soiler, whig and republican. He at one time cast the only free-soil vote cast in Ohio Grove township. He was foremost in temperance work. His education was good, having taught in Pennsylvania and in Mercer county. He left a wife and six children to mourn his loss. Mrs. Graham resides at Alexis. Her children are: Calvin W., of Kansas; Lenora J., now Mrs. A. L. Brownlee, of Iowa; Mary M. E., now Mrs. J. C. Graham, of Monmouth; R. M., of Nebraska; Emmet S., at home; and Eva A., with her mother. Emmet S. was married October 19, 1876, to Miss Ella C. Boggs; she was born in Warren county, Illinois, April 25, 1856.

JOHN SEATON (deceased) was born in Perthshire, Scotland, March 15, 1795, and was a son of Duncan and Margaret (Cameron) Seaton. His birthplace is the country village of Killiekrankie, famous as a field of battle in times gone by, and made immortal by the lines of Walter Scott. Mr. Seaton's grandfather and his wife's grandfather fought in the battle of Culloden. Mr. Seaton spent about forty-five years in



Scotland. He was educated in the common schools of his country. He learned the trade of carpentry and masonry, which he followed somewhat, as well as farming. He became anxious to try a new country; hence in 1843 he left the land of Scott and Burns for America. He sailed from Liverpool May 21 and landed in New York July 14. He settled first in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, where he farmed two years. In 1845 he determined to emigrate still westward; accordingly he started for Galena, Illinois, via the river, but being taken sick he concluded to land at Oquawka, which he did in November of 1845. He spent the first winter in Mercer county; then two years he farmed in Warren county. In 1848 he "squatted" on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19, T. 13 N., R. 3 W., Mercer county, which he bought when it came into market. This he improved, and here he lived till his death, July 21, 1881. Mr. Seaton was a quiet, honest, plodding farmer, friendly to all and esteemed by all. He was a Presbyterian in religious faith. In politics he cast his first vote for Henry Clay, and later was a strong republican. The country needs more such men. Mr. Seaton was first married in 1821 to Isabell McDonald, who died in 1824, leaving two children: Margaret, born June 22, 1822; and Duncan, born October 27, 1823. Mr. Seaton next married (1826) Miss Christian Seaton, probably a very distant relative. She was born January 10, 1800. She shared the toils of emigration and life in the new country, dying in Mercer county, Illinois, December 20, 1878. She was a consistent Christian, and a queen in her own house. She was the mother of six children: Eliza, born October 4, 1828, died July, 1847; John, born February 6, 1831; Robert, born March 25, 1834, enlisted in company G, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., was second lieutenant, and died at Nashville, October 10, 1864, from a wound received July 22, 1864, at Atlanta; he was a brave boy; Daniel, born February 3, 1836, died May 14, 1866; George; Susan, died in infancy. George Seaton, son of John Seaton, was born February 14, 1839, on the same farm as his father. He grew to be his father's constant help, as he took charge of his father's business for about twenty years. He was married February 26, 1874, to Miss Mary J. Brown, daughter of James Brown, of Warren county. She was born in Ireland, county Antrim, July 26, 1851, and is lineally descended from the Campbells, of Argyleshire, Scotland. They have four children. Mr. Seaton owns the old homestead and other land to the amount of about 500 acres. The new town of Seaton is laid out on his land, and he has built the first store.

SAMUEL M. CREIGHTON, farmer, was born January 18, 1831, in Ohio county, West Virginia. His father, John Creighton, was born in

1767, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. While yet a boy he was a teamster in the revolution, and was drilled for a soldier. He was present at the battle of the Brandywine. He died in 1849, having buried his wife (Samuel's mother) in 1836. Both are buried at the church at the Forks of Wheeling. She was born about 1780. In the family were eleven children, of whom Samuel is the youngest. He, in company with his sister Elizabeth, emigrated to Brown county, Ohio; then to Warren county, Illinois; and in the fall of 1853 settled on section 35, Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, Illinois, on the James Graham place, one year; then in 1854 he bought the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33. This he has improved. In 1875 he built his present house at an expense of \$2,100. Mr. Creighton is a radical republican; he cast his first vote for John P. Hale. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM C. BROWNLEE, farmer, is the namesake of his father, the Rev. W. C. Brownlee, D.D., of New York city. Dr. W. C. Brownlee was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland. He was educated at the university of Glasgow, and was licensed to preach in Scotland in the faith of the covenanters. He was married in Scotland to Mariah McDougall, a native of Glasgow. He emigrated to America about 1804, and became a minister to a Seceder congregation in Washington county, Pennsylvania. He soon received a call to a Philadelphia Scotch-Presbyterian congregation, which he accepted about 1812. He afterward became Professor of Languages and Mathematics in Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Later he became collegiate pastor of the Dutch Reformed church, at the corner of Nassau and Liberty streets, New York city. He died in 1860, in his eighty-second year, having suffered many years from a stroke of the palsy. His wife died about 1850. In the family were nine children: Dr. J. J. Brownlee (dead) was surgeon in the late war; John A. (dead) was of the firm of Brownlee, Homer & Co., St. Louis; David, a merchant of St. Louis; the girls, Mariah, Margaret, Jane, and Catharine, married prominent merchants in the east. William C. was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, September 3, 1815, and is the third child in the family. He was educated in the common schools of Pennsylvania and high school of New York city. In the spring of 1838 he left home and stayed with his relatives in Ohio a time, emigrating with them still westward. He came to Mercer county, Illinois, and settled near Viola, taking a claim of 160 acres. In 1840 he bought 240 acres in Ohio Grove township, which he has improved. In that year he was married to Mary A. Brownlee. She was born in Richland county, Ohio. She died April 3, 1876, and is buried at Norwood. She was the mother of six chil-



dren: William C., Jr., Francis, Mariah, Samuel, Alexander, and Harriet N. Mr. Brownlee was a whig, voted awhile for the democracy, but the war made him a republican.

JAMES CALHOUN (deceased) was a native of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. He made a trip to Muskingum county about 1814, purchasing, and in part clearing, a farm. About 1816 he settled with his wife, Elizabeth (Carnahan) on his Ohio farm. His father having been in the revolutionary war, he was not afraid of the frontier. There nine children were born to them: David, William, John K., James H., Joseph C., Samuel C., Elizabeth, Franklin, and Alexander T. Mr. Calhoun, besides farming in Ohio, was proprietor of a store and a steam mill. In 1843 the family emigrated via the Muskingum, Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Oquawka and thence to Mercer county, where he farmed a short time in Suez township, then removed to New Boston, where he kept hotel for a number of years. He died July 15, 1847. His wife lived till November 22, 1878. Both were members of the United Presbyterian church. Mr. Calhoun is a distant relative of the great John C. Calhoun. The children are scattered. David and William moved to Kansas; the latter is dead. Joseph and Alexander live in Taylor county, Iowa; James K., is of Aledo; Samuel and James H., in Ohio Grove township. Samuel and Alexander served three years in company H., 84th Ill. Vol., in the civil war. James H. was born August 5, 1826; has spent a life on the farm, owning 80 acres in Ohio Grove township. The family are, and have been, warm republicans. John K. was born February 24, 1824; was raised on the farm and educated in the common schools of his day. He came to Mercer county in 1843, with the family. In 1846 he returned to Ohio, where he lived till the fall of 1854, when he was married to Miss — McClelland, native of Ohio; and on the following day started for his home in Mercer county, Illinois. He settled in section 5, Suez township, where he lived, raised his family and buried his wife, her death occurring in 1872. In spring of 1882 he retired from active labor and moved to Aledo, Illinois. He is owner of 500 acres of good land. His children are: Elizabeth J., Martha A. (now Mrs. Robert Hudleston), Mary B., William (deceased).

BARNET UNANGST (deceased) was born in Warren county, New Jersey, March 28, 1810. His father, Jacob Unangst, was a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, and his mother, Elizabeth (Wilson), was born in New Jersey. The family is of German descent. June 15, 1833, Barnet Unganst was married to Charity Smith, daughter of Isaac and Jemima (Wheaton) Smith. She was born in Huntington county, New Jersey, August 30, 1815. An extract from a

New Jersey paper is as follows: "The annual re-union of the great Smith family of New Jersey, held on Wednesday, in a beautiful grove of appletrees on the site of the old homestead of Zachariah Smith, of Peapack, was, perhaps, the biggest family gathering that has ever yet taken place. There were fully 3,000 persons present, all supposed to be lineally descended from, or connected with, the original John Schmidt, of Holland, who settled in Stanton, Huntington county, New Jersey, over 125 years ago, and changed his name to Smith, after he understood the ways of the country. He was a genial Dutchman; slow plodding, industrious, honest; and the impress of his character is left on a good portion of his vast progeny to this day." After marriage Barnet and Charity Unangst lived in New Jersey till 1851, having eight children born to them: Pheby, born May 12, 1834, died April 19, 1836; John S., born September 12, 1836, died August 20, 1838; Godfrey H., born January 12, 1839; Ann E., born November 21, 1840; Mary J., born November 30, 1842; Margaret, born July 13, 1845; Christiana, born September 3, 1847; Sarah C., born March 26, 1850. Two were born in Illinois: Jacob, born February 16, 1852, died December 14, 1854; and William H., born July 27, 1854. In 1851 the family sought a home in Illinois, and bought land in Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, coming overland 1,200 or 1,300 miles, occupying about seven weeks in the journey. Here the Unangsts made their farm. Mr. Unangst was a quiet, congenial citizen. He died November 23, 1876, leaving his wife to survive him till August 12, 1881. Both were members of the Presbyterian church, and are buried at Norwood. Godfrey H., the third child, enlisted in company E, 102d Ill., Vol., August 18, 1862. He was detached at Gallatin, Tennessee, for pioneer service, December 1, 1862, and transferred to company K, 1st Reg. U. S. Vet. Eng. Vol., about September 1, 1864. He was through the campaign from Nashville to Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and in front of Nashville. He was discharged June 30, 1865, and returned to his home, where he resumed farm labor. He became manager of the farm on his father's disability, and now owns the old homestead in section 13.

EBENEZER GRAHAM, farmer, was born May 12, 1816, in Washington county, Pennsylvania. His parents, John and Martha (Hutchinson) Graham, were natives of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, but died in Washington county. John Graham emigrated from Ireland when a young man. He lived on the frontier of Pennsylvania, at night resting in a fort. He was in the Indian wars. Ebenezer, the tenth and youngest child, lived in Pennsylvania till 1857. He was raised on a farm. His schooling is limited, yet such as was common to his



day. He was married to Sarah A. McDowell, who was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, December 21, 1837. In 1857 Mr. Graham sold his farm and moved west, settling in Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, where he has improved a good farm. He and wife have been members of the United Presbyterian church over forty-five years. He is a strong republican. In the family are two children: J. L., born in Pennsylvania; and Martha J. S., now Mrs. Dr. J. T. McCutchan, of Norwood.

M. M. Cross, farmer, was born in Adams county, Ohio, November 16, 1820, and is a son of William and Ann (Morrow) Cross. William Morrow was a native of Pennsylvania. He became a soldier in the war of 1812. In 1811 he moved to Adams county, Ohio. He was a farmer and miller and had learned the tanning business in his young days. He died in Ohio in 1848. His wife was a native of county Down, Ireland, and came when young to America; she died in Ohio in 1856. In the family were three girls and three boys. M. M. Cross was reared on the farm. He was married to Dorcas Finley, daughter of William Finley, in 1856. In that same year Mr. Cross came to Mercer county, Illinois, and settled in Ohio Grove township. He bought eighty acres of land; to this he added more, then sold, but now owns 160 acres of fine land, with good improvements. Mr. Cross was raised a democrat but has long been a good republican. He was assessor some time and was road commissioner about fifteen years. His wife died March 2, 1856, leaving a family of five children: Lewis A., McDill L., Emma A., Craton R., and Stewart E. Mr. Cross was next married to Paulina J. Walker, a native of Adams county, Ohio, and who came with her parents to Peoria county, Illinois, in an early day. Mr. and Mrs. Cross are connected with the United Presbyterian church. McDill R., son of M. M. Cross, was born in Adams county, Ohio, February 25, 1856. He lived with his parents till marriage; he was married March 8, 1882, to Miss Abbie M. Kimel, daughter of J. W. and Mary (Burnet) Kimel. She was born in Mercer county, Ohio Grove township, March 12, 1863.

HORACE NYE CHANDLER is a son of Zachariah and Fannie (Bingham) Chandler. The Chandlers have been prominent figures in America for several generations. Benjamin Chandler was killed in the battle of Bennington in the revolution, as a "Green Mountain boy," and his sons, John, Joseph, Jesse, Benjamin, and Seth were in the same battle. Joseph was in the regular army under Gates, and afterward settled in Morgan county, Ohio. Dr. Jesse Chandler settled in Putnam county, Ohio, and his son, Dr. Ero Chandler, is now of Hancock county, Illinois. Benjamin died in Philadelphia. John raised six sons; he died and is



*John Scaton*





buried at Chandlerville, Ohio. His sons were: Zachariah, Martin, John, Samuel, Guy, and Stephen. Zachariah was born in Rutland county, Vermont; he died in Muskingum county, Ohio, and is buried by his father. His wife, Fannie Bingham, was a native of New Hampshire; she rests near her husband in Ohio. She was related to congressman Bingham, so long an Ohio statesman. She was a descendant of Miles Standish of the May Flower fame. She was a very intelligent woman, not only understanding, but able to teach. Her children received the larger part of their education from her wonderful fund of knowledge. Her children are: Seth, who died in California; Horace N., of Mercer county; Mary (dead), Harriott (dead), Abigail (dead), Abigail (living), Fannie (dead), Eliza, and Nira. Horace N. Chandler was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, November 8, 1817. He was raised to the toil of the farm. He attended the common schools, but received the larger part of his knowledge of government and public men from his mother. Being the only son at home, the duties of the house fell somewhat upon him, so that he lived with his parents and they with him till they died. He became the proprietor of the Ohio homestead. Mr. Chandler was married June 1, 1843, to Miss Anne E. Bevan, daughter of John and Mary (Blackburn) Bevan. Her father was a native of Monroe county, Ohio, and her mother of Maryland. Mrs. Chandler was born in Monroe county, Ohio, October 8, 1822. After marriage Mr. Chandler resided in Ohio till 1865, when he came west, arriving at Monmouth on the day on which the news of Lincoln's assassination stung the heart of every true American. He bought, June 12, 1865, the James Kellogg farm, the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 27 and W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 27, Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, Illinois, where he has since lived. He has improved the farm very materially. He has been supervisor for many terms. In politics he has been whig and republican, being a charter member of the latter party. The children of this union are: Darwin, Mary, Seth, John B., Harriott, and Homer. Darwin enlisted in the naval service under Com. Leroy Fisk, serving one year, till the war closed. Mary is now Mrs. J. K. Porter.

DR. C. C. SMITH, son of Andrew and Jane (Craig) Smith, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, April 1, 1825. Jane Craig was born in county Monohon, Ireland, in 1790, and emigrated with her parents in 1794 to Pennsylvania. She died in Ohio, July 12, 1864. Andrew Smith was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and died in Ohio, August 31, 1875. His grandfather Smith was from Germany. Andrew Smith and wife were many years in the Associate Presbyterian church. In their family were six children: Anne, Lydia, C. C., Sarah J. (dead),



John, and Walter. The life of Dr. C. C. Smith has been one of unusual activity, from the fact that he has been obliged to fight his own battles in life. His education, liberal as it is, he acquired by his own efforts. His early years were spent in country air and his hands were inured to farm labor. He desired a professional life, and to fit him for this he was resolved first to be well read in general knowledge. He accordingly attended the common schools. He began teaching, which he followed at different times for a number of years. He attended Madison College at Antrim, Ohio, where he completed the course in mathematics, except surveying. He also pursued the Latin language to some extent. In 1848 he began to read medicine with a Dr. Davis. His preceptor dying he then read with Dr. R. G. Stephenson. After reading more or less for four years he attended medical lectures at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1852. He began the practice of medicine in Antrim, his home, first in partnership with his preceptor, but Dr. Stephenson dying Dr. Smith continued his profession alone. In 1856 he located at Viola, Mercer county, Illinois, remaining two years or little more. He then practiced as long in Preemption. In the fall of 1861 he bought out Dr. Gilmore, of Sunbeam, and has since practiced here. That he has been a successful practitioner is evident from the fact that he now owns seventy-two acres, with good house, etc., as his home place, eighty acres in section 10, and 160 acres in Iowa, all the reward of his practice. During the war the doctor was busy, doing much for the families of soldiers. The wounds he dressed without charge, and thus he did his duty at home. Late years he has circumscribed his practice, on account of overwork. He has been an active worker in temperance work, also a member and an officer in the United Presbyterian church. He is a very strong republican. His first vote was for John P. Hale. Dr. Smith was married February 22, 1855, to Cordelia, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Work) Downerd. She was born in Guernsey county, Ohio. Her father was a German, her mother from county Donegal, Ireland. Dr. Smith has a family of six children living and two dead.

CHRISTIAN SHARER (deceased) was born on New Year day about 1800, in Herkimer county, New York. His people were of Dutch descent. His father was killed in the revolutionary war. Mr. Sharer was raised on a farm, but became interested in dairying, merchandising, distilling and banking business, becoming quite wealthy. The panic of 1837 crippled him financially. He was married in New York to Catharine Rasbach, by whom he had three children: John, George, and Edward M. In 1844 they moved to Licking county, Ohio. In 1854 they located in Moultrie county, Illinois, and a year afterward in

Stark county. In 1858 they moved to Mercer county, Illinois, where Mr. Sharer bought land in Suez township, and lived till his death, in June, 1861. His wife lives on the homestead. Edward M., the third child, was born May 3, 1841, remained with his parents, and moved with them. He enlisted August 26, 1862, in company E, 102d Ill. Vol., and served in service of his country nearly three years, enduring all the hardships and enjoying the *few* pleasures incident to the career of his regiment. In the fall of 1868 he purchased 100 acres of land in the northeast part of section 24, Ohio Grove township. In 1876 or 1877 he built his present commodious house. He now has 180 acres in his farm, well improved. He was married February 23, 1869, to Martha Simpson, daughter of James and Anna (Goodman) Simpson, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Sharer was born in Pennsylvania. Three of her brothers were in the civil war, David R. being in company E, 102d Illinois, the others in Pennsylvania regiments. Mr. and Mrs. Sharer have five children: Alva, Willie, Edward, Charlie, and the babe.

GEORGE W. WERTS, blacksmith, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, April 4, 1841, and is a son of George and Margaret (Maple) Werts. His father was a native of Loudoun county, Virginia, and his mother of Ohio. Mr. Werts was raised on a farm, and when sixteen years old learned the blacksmith's trade, so that when Sumpter's cry of distress belched from mouths of cannon and called for America's yeomanry to relieve her he was used to toil and prepared to do his country's service. He enlisted August 22, 1862, in company I, 122d Ohio Vol., under Capt. Gary. He was mustered in at Zanesville, Ohio, as a private. For two years, more or less constantly, he bugled for his company. He became engaged in battle at Winchester; Millroy, where his company became surrounded by the enemy; Harper's Ferry; went into line at Williamsport, near Gettysburg, where he assisted in taking 1,500 prisoners. He was then in the effort to cut through Manassas gap to intercept Lee; was then sent to New York to aid in quelling the riot. He fought at Locust Grove, then started with Grant for Richmond. May 4, 1864, he went into the battle of the Wilderness, where his company lost heavily; took part at Spottsylvania Court-house, Cold Harbor, where his division received a complimentary order for taking the works of the enemy. He was then sent to the south side of Richmond to Butler's department, and was drawn in line to make a charge, but word came countermanding the order. He then united with the main army at Petersburg, and fought on the south side of the river. He accompanied Sheridan in the Shenandoah valley to protect Washington; went through that campaign, and was



with Sheridan in his famous ride, and aided in "licking them out of their boots" at Cedar creek, where victory depended largely on the corps of which he was a member, the army having been generally routed by Early's forces when Sheridan arrived from Winchester. This corps was called by the rebels the Catholic cross corps. Mr. Werts assisted in the charge and taking of the works at Richmond; followed the enemy to Sailors' run, taking 1,100 wagons and many prisoners; then on to Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court-house. Mr. Werts' army career was one of unusual activity. He was mustered out at Washington. But twelve of his company remained able for duty. In 1865 he located at Sunbeam, Mercer county, Illinois, where he has since been the "village blacksmith." He was married October 3, 1865, to Miss Mary Decker, daughter of Benjamin Decker, and a native of Mercer county. He has six children: Alpha M., Susie E., Clarence B., George W., Jr.; Alonzo E., and Everet L.

PETER PETERSON, farmer, was born in Sweden June 27, 1826. In June, 1865, Mr. Peterson sailed for America, landing at New York city. He soon arrived at Rock Island. He spent eighteen months with the Bishop Hill colony in Henry county, Illinois, working at his trade of carpentering. He continued his trade in Fulton county, then one year at Galva. Being out of work, he overheard some persons talking of moving to Mercer county, Illinois, and he proposed to accompany them, which he did in 1859. Here he lived with the Sharers for four years, working at his trade. August 18, 1862, he enlisted in company E., 102d reg. Ill. Vol., under Capt. Likely and Col. McMurtrie. He served sixteen months. He was on detached duty mostly. At Chattanooga he stood in the river up to his ears in cold water for thirty-six hours continuously, which disabled him for duty and has crippled him for life. He returned to Mercer county, not being able to walk for some time. He managed to buy a small farm, and now has 140 acres and a good house. He was married first to Betsy Johnson, who died in Henry county, Illinois, leaving one child, Cathrina, now Mrs. Henry Crosby, of Viola. He was next married to Catharine Johnson, January 26, 1869, and by her he has five children: Eddie, Maggie, John, Julia A., and Charlie. Mr. Peterson is a thrifty farmer.

ROBERT HAMILTON, farmer, was born in Kentucky, October 8, 1811. His parents, Samuel and Jane (Smith) Hamilton, were natives of South Carolina. They moved to Kentucky early, and thence to Preble county, Ohio, where Samuel Hamilton died. His wife died in Indiana. Robert was raised in the stern schools of toil. When twenty years of age he learned the carpenter trade, which he has followed more or less

since. He also worked as a millwright for some years. In the fall of 1830 he located in Clinton county, Indiana, near Madison. He was there married to Miss Deborah Talbert. In 1855 he moved to Mercer county, Illinois. Here he bought 150 acres of land, his present farm. This he has improved. In politics Mr. Hamilton was whig, in the days of that party. He is a strong republican. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church. He has a family of four children living and one dead: William H., when under age, went to the war, and was out about two months; Perry S., Mary E., and Rose E.

MOSES PATTERSON, farmer, was born in Knox county, Illinois, June 13, 1841. His father, John M. Patterson, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, November 22, 1799, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. His mother, Sarah A. (Bell), was born in Delaware, Kent county, January 15, 1818. The grandfather of Moses was Col. Patterson of Pennsylvania militia, and the father was in both the Pennsylvania and Ohio militia. John M. Patterson became a resident of Ohio about 1815, and there married Margaret Stephens, who died leaving three children. He next married Sarah A. Bell. In 1836 he settled in Knox county, Illinois. He lived two years near Viola, Mercer county, then went to Rock Island county, thence to Henry county, where he buried his wife. She died March 25, 1865. He died in Warren county, June 18, 1873. He was a strictly moral man; swearing was extremely odious to him. His religion was as he called it, "homespun." His wife was a Methodist. Moses Patterson left home at the age of seventeen years, going to Pike's Peak, Colorado, in 1857. He returned to Illinois and joined some of his schoolmates for the civil war. He enlisted at Rock Island March 12, 1862, in company B. 65th Ill. Vol; Capt. R. S. Montgomery and Col. Daniel Cameron, known as the "Montgomery guards." In March, 1864, he was transferred to engineer bat. 23d army corps, army of Ohio, in which he served till April 5, 1865. He took part in the battles on the Potomac the first summer and was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry together with the whole command of 1,100 men; was paroled and sent to Chicago. In March, 1863, he was sent to Lexington, Kentucky, and over to West Virginia. There he took part in the battles of that campaign, and assisted in taking Ben. Coddle, the famous guerilla, and in breaking up his band, capturing 400 of his men. He then crossed the Cumberland mountains with Burnside, and experienced the twenty-two days' siege of Knoxville; was twice at Zollicoffer, then with Sherman at Chattanooga and through to Atlanta. He returned with Thomas in pursuit of Hood; was at Nashville and from there followed Hood to Corinth. He was engaged at Fort Fisher, Fort Anderson, and Wilmington, North



Carolina, and was there relieved and sent home. He returned to Knox county, Illinois. September 7, 1869, he located where he lives, in Mercer county. He owns 240 acres of land well improved. Mr. Patterson was married December 26, 1869, to Alice Hawkins, daughter of Augustus Hawkins, of Cameron, Warren county, Illinois. She was born April 19, 1851. They have three children: Edwin A., Mary, and a babe.

NICHOLAS SHEARER, farmer, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, March 29, 1831. His parents, John and Mary Ann (Walters) Shearer were natives of Ohio. They moved to Indiana, and about 1855 came to Mercer county, Illinois. They subsequently moved to Madison county, Iowa, where they died. Their family numbered thirteen children: James (dead), Nicholas, Jeremiah, Francis M., William D., Hugh P., Lucinda, Mary E., Martha, Melissa, John, Noah. Francis M. served in the late war in the 102d Ill. Vol., and died of measles at Fort Donelson. Hugh P. and William D. enlisted in the 36th Ill. Vol., and died of measles at Raleigh, Missouri. Nicholas was raised on the farm; in 1851 he came to Illinois; here he worked for Wm. Stephens and esquire Nevius. In 1852 he returned to Indiana, and September 7, 1852, was married to Elizabeth McPherren, daughter of James and Jane (Shaw) McPherren. She was born in Muskingum county, Ohio. Her father and five brothers served in the civil war. One, George, was killed at Stone river. After marriage Mr. Shearer returned to Mercer county. For three or four years he rented a farm; he then bought forty acres and began farming his own land. He now has 160 acres free from debt, and has made it all himself. He paid for the first forty acres by working by the month. He has four children living: Sarah J., Margaret A., Mary C., and Fannie. John is dead.

BEARD CHURCH, farmer and stock raiser, was born in Mercer county, Illinois, December 20, 1842. His father, Thomas Church, was a native of Virginia. He moved to Wayne county, Indiana, in an early day. He married Rachel A. Beard, a relative of the Hon. John Beard, of Indiana. About 1835, or a little later, Mr. Church moved to Mercer county, Illinois, and lived a short time in Duncan township. He then moved to Eliza township, and finally to New Boston, where he died about 1857. He was well known and highly regarded. He owned, at his death, about 400 acres of land, indicative of his success as a farmer. His wife survived till 1881, when she joined the departed. Six children were born to them: John L., born in Indiana, and died in Mercer county. Those born here are: Elizabeth, Hannah, Beard, Thomas, William W., and Rachel A. Beard is one of Mercer county's own children raised together with his home. A farmer, yet he spent

one year in Aledo as a grocery merchant. After this he bought a farm west of Aledo, but soon sold this and in 1877 bought in Ohio Grove township, where he owns 200 acres well improved; his farm being the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 11. He was married October 20, 1864, to Miss Mary E. McGinnis, daughter of the Hon. John T. McGinnis, of Mercer county. She was born October 25, 1846. They have two children: Everett W., born September 24, 1865; and Frank M., born May 10, 1868. Mr. Church is republican in politics.

MOSES MCINTIRE was born in county Donegal, parish of Ray, seven miles southwest of Londonderry, Ireland, in 1830. His father, Jeremiah McIntire, was born in Ireland, and died about 1839; and his mother, Sarah (Ross), also a native of Ireland, died (1841) in Ireland. They were of the Protestant faith, belonging to the Seceder church. Jeremiah was a millwright by trade, but followed farming mostly. They were parents of nine children: James sailed for Quebec and probably died there from ship fever; Mathew died in Ireland; John B. died in Warren county, Illinois; William is in Iowa; Jeremiah died in Abington township, Mercer county; Sarah (now Mrs. James Friell), and Moses. William was here about 1835, while the Indians were bad. Moses McIntire emigrated from Ireland in 1848. He came to New York, where he became porter in Brooks' dry goods establishment; then was engaged in a white-lead factory. In 1852 he came to Warren county, Illinois. Here he followed carpentering several years in part, and ran a threshing machine in threshing season. He bought 160 acres of land in Warren county. This he sold, and purchased in 1862 eighty acres, the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, Ohio Grove township. This farm he has well improved. He also has some timber. Mr. McIntire was married, September 3, 1863, to Miss Matilda Watt, daughter of John and Jane Watt, of Pennsylvania. She was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, January 11, 1842. They have eight children living and two dead. Mr. and Mrs. McIntire are connected with the United Presbyterian church. Mr. McIntire is a republican. He has been postmaster of Duck Creek office since 1862. He takes an interest in school affairs and all progressive movements for the county's good.

JOHN B. MCINTIRE was born in county Donegal, Ireland, Mannor-Cunningham parish, twelve miles from Londonderry, in 1816. He is one of the progressive Protestants of Irish blood. He was married to Eleanor McElheney, also a native of the same place. They sailed for America in 1847, settling on a farm near Brighton, Canada. In 1851 they moved to Warren county, Illinois, Sumner township, where they became land owners and are thrifty farmers. Both are members of the



United Presbyterian church. In the family are six children living and five dead: Sarah and Bessie, born in Ireland; Bessie died on the ocean, and Sarah died in Canada; Moses died in Warren county, Illinois; Margaret, also; Ellen, Minnie, and William J. William J. McIntire was born July 30, 1848, near Brighton, Canada. He lived at home till about twenty-five years of age. When twenty-five years old, his father gave him eighty acres of land in Ohio Grove township. He sold his eighty and bought 110 acres of the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28, paying \$4,500. He has improved his place very much. He is naturally handy with tools, doing his own carpenter work, blacksmithing, etc. Mr. McIntire was married, February 26, 1874, to Miss Bellzora Bullock, daughter of William Bullock. She was born in Mercer county, October 28, 1853. The children are: Guy, and Glenn. Vida is dead.

JACOB GUTHRIE (deceased) was a native of Greene county, Pennsylvania. He came to Warren county, Illinois, in 1863, and the following year bought a farm of eighty acres in section 10, Ohio Grove township, Mercer county. He died October 7, 1871. He was justice of the peace and held other offices in Pennsylvania. His politics were democratic. His wife died April 17, 1875. In the family were eleven children. Noah H. Guthrie, the fifth child of the above, was born in Pennsylvania, March 6, 1842. His life was spent on the farm till the war. September, 1861, he enlisted in his country's service, in company F, 7th reg. West Virginia Vol. Inf., under Lieut.-Col. Kelley and Capt. Ben. Morris. Mr. Guthrie fought in eleven battles, the chief of which were Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Bull Run, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court-House. At the last-named battle he was shot in the right leg, necessitating the removal of eight inches of the tibia. He was six months at Chester (Pa.) hospital. He was discharged December 17, 1864. Leaving the hospital, he came direct to Sunbeam, Mercer county, Illinois, to his parents. He subsequently spent three years at the Soldiers' College, at Fulton, Illinois. In 1870 he took the census of eight townships of Mercer county. In the fall of 1870 he was elected sheriff of Mercer county, which office he filled two terms. In 1880 he took the census of Ohio Grove township. He is a republican. Mr. Guthrie was married July 4, 1870, to Miss Delila Hardy, daughter of Ashford and Sophia Hardy. She was born in Mercer county, February 11, 1848. They have three children: Freddie, Edmund, and Grace. Mr. Guthrie owns a beautiful farm of 240 acres, well improved.

WILLIAM R. VANCE, farmer, is a son of James and Sarah (Pearson) Vance, of Abington township, elsewhere noticed. William R. was

born in New Boston township, Mercer county, Illinois, September 20, 1847. He has spent all his time in Mercer county, except a short time in Iowa. He remained at home until twenty-two years of age, when he bought a farm in Abington township. In 1876 he moved to Ohio Grove township, where he bought 160 acres of the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 27. He was married January 7, 1875, to Jennie Brown, daughter of John Brown, of Mercer county, Illinois. She is a native of this county. They have one child, Olive B.

SAMUEL SPROWL, farmer, was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, June 29, 1822, and is a son of William and Rebecca (Baker) Sprowl, both natives of Virginia, and of Scotch descent. Rebecca Baker's grandfather was a wealthy Londoner. William and Rebecca Sprowl moved to Fayette county, Ohio, about 1842, where she died about 1845. She was born March 17, 1782. William was born January 8, 1775, and died November 17, 1872. He spent his aged years with his son Samuel. He was for many years a member of the United Presbyterian church. In the family were: William, born June 11, 1801; Elizabeth, born March 14, 1803; Polly, born March 7, 1805, died January 27, 1869; Rebecca, born October 21, 1807; John, born May 15, 1810; Martha, born May 27, 1812, died November 17, 1873; Anna P., born January 11, 1817; Sarah, born December 2, 1819, died January 4, 1874; Samuel; Christiana, born February 8, 1825. Samuel Sprowl was raised on the farm in Ohio, in the log cabin, the forest and the field. Many a day has he worked with ax to clear the land for crops. The school was three miles away, so that his advantages were very limited. In 1855 he emigrated to Illinois. He farmed a rented place one year. In 1856 he bought the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 22, at \$12.50 per acre. This he has improved into a good farm. He now has 172 acres and house, and three lots in Aledo, where he lived for three years. He was married September 14, 1869, to Maggie Dixon, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Shaw) Dixon, both natives of Virginia. Her father died May 29, 1879. Mrs. Sprowl was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, September 9, 1848. She was in Virginia during the late war, and witnessed both northern and southern armies frequently, and heard the roar of battle. Two brothers were in the battle of Gettysburg, and her youngest brother was a guard at Libby prison. Mr. Sprowl has three children: John W., Samuel B. and Olive L.

JOHN PARKS (deceased) was born in county Armagh, Ireland. He owned a small piece of land there, which he farmed. He was an Orangeman, and was engaged in the war of the Protestants against the Catholics. He was then married to Jane Brown, also a native of



that green isle. About 1848 they sailed for America, and made their home in Adams county, Ohio. In 1855 they moved to Warren county, Illinois, and five years later to Mercer county, and settled the place now owned by Alexander Parks. He was a republican, casting his first vote for John C. Fremont. He died December 11, 1873, leaving a wife who survives him. His children are six: John, James, Samuel (dead), Alexander, Lizzie and Sarah. Samuel was a member of company G., 102d Ill. Vol., under Capt. Wycoff; contracted consumption in the army, and died after his discharge. Alexander was born in Ireland, March 17, 1842. He has spent his life on the farm, and owns the old homestead, which he has improved. He was married to Miss Jane Murphy, also a native of Ireland. Their farm is the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, T. 13 N., R. 3. He and all his brothers are republicans.

DAVID MILLIGAN was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, December 7, 1806. His father, John Milligan, was born in county Donegal, Ireland, in 1754, and his mother, Jane (Kincaid), in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1764. John Milligan left Ireland August 6, 1790, and after thirteen weeks' voyage landed at Newcastle. So nearly did the provisions give out that each man's allowance was but one pint of water and two tablespoonfuls of oat meal every twenty-four hours. When they landed all were like skeletons and some ate till they died. John died August 2, 1839. His wife died in 1850. One son (Robert) served in the war of 1812. David Milligan was raised on the farm in Pennsylvania. He was married December 1, 1836, to Miss Rebecca Rollstin. She was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1818. Her father, James Rollstin, was from Ireland. Mr. Milligan remained in Pennsylvania till 1866, when he emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, arriving October 19th. He had learned to farm among the rocks, so found land here easy to cultivate. He became the owner of 479 acres of land in sections 28, 13, and 3, Ohio Grove township. He built three different houses. Thus he has aided in adding wealth to Mercer county. His wife died October 19, 1880, leaving him to mourn the loss of a dear companion. She was a member of the United Presbyterian church for forty-four years. She was the mother of eight children: Nancy, Jane (dead), John F., James R., Warren (dead), Rebecca M., Rachel M. (dead), and Elizabeth E. Mr. Milligan is a republican. He used to be democrat, whig and anti-mason. He has been connected with the United Presbyterian church since 1836. He sent one son to the civil war when the boy was nineteen years old, viz., John F., who enlisted August 18, 1862, in company C, 22d Penn. Cav., under Capt. G. T. Work and Col. Higgins.

He fought at Moorefield, Virginia, Fredericksburg, second battle of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Laurel Hill, Cedar Creek, and many skirmishes. He was discharged June 1, 1865.

ALEXANDER McBRIDE, farmer, was born near Belfast, Ireland, May 28, 1831. His parents, William and Margery (McNeil), were natives of county Down, Ireland. They owned a piece of the land known as the "land forever." Failure on account of being surety for his brother caused William McBride to emigrate to America, which he did about 1850, sailing from Belfast May 1st, and landing in New York June 1st; soon settled in Muskingum county, Ohio. He died there June 11, 1861. In Ireland he was grand master of the Orange society many years. He was a quiet, inoffensive man, minding his own business, and respected by the community. He is buried at Bloomfield, Ohio. There were eight children: Jane, born in Ireland, Sarah (dead), Mary, Eliza A., Margery, Rachel, Nancy, and Alexander. They were of the United Presbyterian faith. Alexander (the fourth child) was general manager of home affairs. He was married December 25, 1857, to Sarah J. Wilson, daughter of Hugh Wilson. She was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, September 10, 1830. Alexander McBride was a hundred-day man in the late war; was in several skirmishes and at the battle of Harper's Ferry, in company B, 160th Ohio home guards. February 4, 1867, he left Ohio for Mercer county, Illinois. He lived a while in Suez township. In 1871 he bought 160 acres, the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 36, in Ohio Grove township, on which he lives. He was pathmaster five years. He has a family of five children: Hugh W., Mary L., William T., Samuel H., and David L. He always votes for republican principles. He and wife are members of the United Presbyterian church.

JAMES A. KELLOGG was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, November 23, 1848. He emigrated with his people to Bureau county, Illinois, in 1852, and in the following year his father purchased 160 acres of land now owned by H. N. Chandler. Here James was raised. His people moved to Abington township, where they now reside. James is fairly educated, having lived handy to the school and enjoyed its advantages. He was married in 1873 to Miss Mary A. Vance, daughter of James and Sarah Vance, now of Abington township. Mrs. Kellogg is a native of Mercer county. Mr. Kellogg farmed some time in Abington township. In 1874 he occupied his present farm of eighty acres, being the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 28, Ohio Grove township. Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg are members of the Presbyterian church. They have three children: Arthur L., Frank R., and Inis L.

WM. H. H. SMITH, farmer, a son of William Smith, noticed in the



history of Ohio Grove township, was born July 2, 1840, in Muskingum county, Ohio. He came with his people to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1847. His father dying William went to live with his cousin, George A. Smith, till ten years of age. He was then bound out to W. M. Miller, with whom he staid till the war broke out. He enlisted August 9, 1861, in company E, 9th Ill. Vol. Inf., and took part in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Atlanta; was taken sick and sent to Marietta, Georgia, and thence to Nashville, where he remained till the spring of 1865. He then rejoined his command at Pocataligo, North Carolina. He then followed Johnston till the latter surrendered. Mr. Smith then went to Washington, and thence to Louisville, Kentucky, and was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, July 25, 1865. He has since spent five years in the west. In 1870 he made his home in Mercer county. In 1881 he bought forty-eight acres of land, and is now settled on it. Mr. Smith was considerably injured in health in the war service. He was married November 30, 1878, to Nancy E., daughter of Stephen Noland. They have two children: Stephen A., and Lura M. Mr. Smith is entirely republican.

JOHN MCGEE was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania. When five years old he accompanied his parents to Muskingum county, Ohio. He was there raised and educated. He married Miss Margaret Irwin. In 1852 he emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, settling for a time in Suez township. In 1869 he went to Iowa, then to Oregon, in the years 1874 and 1875. He returned to Iowa, and in the spring of 1881 he made his home in Kansas, with his son, David C. His wife died August 20, 1858, and is buried in the Candor graveyard. She was a member of the United Presbyterian church. In the family are seven children: Richard H., D. C., B. W., Martha J. (died in Ohio), Harriet, Mary Ann, and Sarah E. Richard H. was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, July 12, 1834. He enlisted August 13, 1862, in company E, 102d Ill. Vol. He was sergeant for ten months. He was mostly detailed at headquarters. He was at the battle of Nashville. His time was largely occupied in looking after the trains in the rear. He was discharged June 15, 1865, when he returned to Mercer county. His brother, D. C. McGee, was a member of company C, 50th Ill. Vol., and was wounded severely at Altoona Pass. Also B. W. McGee spent a year in the service. Richard H. was married February 14, 1860, to Jessie C. Spence, of Howard county, Missouri. They have four children: Frank, Lizzie, John, and Clara.

ROBERT C. PARKINSON, farmer, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, November 16, 1837, and is the son of Edward and Margaret (Clements) Parkinson, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Ohio.

Mr. Parkinson's parents moved to Warren county, Illinois, in 1856, and in 1859 settled in Mercer county. Edward Parkinson died February 13, 1860. He was born April 1, 1791. His wife was born March 5, 1796, and died September 9, 1866. He was in the war of 1812. His father was an Englishman and his mother of Germany. Her father was a native of Ireland and her mother of America. Both are buried at the Porter graveyard in Warren county, Illinois. Robert C. remained with his parents till they died. He received but little education except that afforded by the farm. He was married June 25, 1863, to Mariah Webster, daughter of Hammond and Louisa Webster. She was born in New York state February 28, 1840. After marriage Mr. Parkinson secured 100 acres of section 28, which he now owns, together with the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28. He was for three years road commissioner. They have had seven children, six of whom are living. Mrs. Webster's parents are noticed in connection with the sketch of Hammond Webster. Her mother, Mrs. Louisa Webster, after the death of her husband, was married October 12, 1845, to Joseph Robinson. Mr. Robinson was born in Alleghany county, New York, April 7, 1812. He left home when twenty-two years old, going to Weaver county, Pennsylvania, in 1834, and the same year to Quincy, Illinois. In 1842 he came to Mercer county. He has improved a good farm, and is now one of the county's oldest citizens. He has been school trustee and road commissioner.

LEMUEL GUSTIN, farmer, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Diltz) Gustin, was born July 29, 1823. His parents settled in Madison county, Indiana, about 1845, and there died. Lemuel was raised on the farm and inured to all the toils and pleasures incident thereto. He is the oldest of eight children. In 1847 he was married to Catharine Noland, daughter of Stephen Noland. Her father, Stephen Noland, was born in 1801, and raised in Kentucky near Cumberland mountain. He moved in a very early day to Wayne county, Indiana, where he lived on the twelve mile purchase when the Indians were bad. He was on the frontier in the war of 1812, and lived partly in a fort or block-house, traded with the Indians, etc. There is a stream in Indiana called Noland's fork, the name deriving from the Nolands. Mr. Noland and wife, Nancy E. (Adams), a native of Ohio, lived in Madison county, Indiana, from 1823 to 1856, when they settled in Mercer county, Illinois. Mrs. Noland died July 20, 1877. In 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Gustin came with the Nolands to Mercer county, Illinois, settling for a time in Eliza township. In 1868 they purchased sixty acres in section 2, Ohio Grove township, and have lived on it since. Mr. Gustin



has been justice of the peace; he has been school director six years. He has six children living and two dead.

JAMES FEATHER, farmer and stock raiser, is a son of Jacob and Mary (Siggens) Feather. Jacob Feather spoke the German tongue, his father being a native of Germany, who emigrated early and fought in the revolution; his wife receiving a pension for his services. Jacob died about 1851 in West Virginia. His wife is living at an advanced age. The family are: Susan, Mary (dead), Ezekiel (dead), Jane, James, Sarah E., Sophia (dead). James, the subject of these notes, was born in West Virginia, October 17, 1839. There he was reared in the country and educated in the schools of his day. In 1856, he made his home in Iowa; remaining there three years. He worked around by the month in Warren county, Illinois; was in the mercantile business in Monmouth four years. In 1868 he went to Missouri. In the meantime he owned the store at Sunbeam for two years. In 1869 he located permanently in Mercer county. Mr. Feather was first married, December 7, 1865, to Miss Martha C. Hayes, daughter of the late Judge Wm. M. Hayes. She died in 1874. Mr. Feather was next married December 26, 1878, to Katy M. Gourley, daughter of Robert Gourley. She is a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. Feather has one child by his first wife, Aurie L.

ELIJAH FORSYTH, son of William and Eleanor Forsyth, was born August 6, 1810, in Indiana county, Pennsylvania. When he was four years of age his parents settled in Ohio. There Elijah was educated in the common schools and became a schoolmaster at the age of nineteen years, teaching twenty-two years in Ohio. He was married in Muskingum county, to Ann Dawson, daughter of Thomas and Catharine Dawson, and a native of Ohio. In 1855, Mr. Forsyth emigrated overland to Mercer county, bringing his family of seven children: John, William, Elijah Jr., David, Mary, Eleanor, and Nancy J. He settled on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 7, Ohio Grove township, which he purchased. He has since added some timber. For eighteen years he has taught, part of each year, in Mercer county. Reference to the official table will show his interest in public affairs and the trust placed in him by the people. He has been an elder in the United Presbyterian church for over twenty years. His father was a native of Rockbridge county, Virginia; was in the war of 1812; died in Ohio in 1827. His mother died in 1835. Mr. Forsyth's son, John, was a member of the 102d reg. Ill. Vol. in the civil war, and was promoted captain of a colored company. He served two years when he was discharged on account of sickness.

## MERCER COUNTY POOR FARM AND INFIRMARY.

CONTRIBUTED BY L. B. DOUGHTY.

Among the public institutions of the county, the Poor Farm and Infirmary are specially worthy of mention, for they are a standing monument, evincing the practical generosity of our citizens. But in our search for material for this chapter, we have found the records so vague, incomplete and unsatisfactory, that we almost despaired of finding sufficient data to make our history of this institution complete or interesting.

From William Wilmerton, Esq., of Preemption township, and Tyler McWhorter, of Mercer, we have obtained some interesting facts, which will help us to, in some measure, fill the gaps we find in the public records.

For years after the organization of our county, those unable to support themselves, and whose families or friends were unable to support them, were cared for by the overseers of the poor of the several townships, who were appointed by the county commissioners. Sometimes they were kept by contract; sometimes they did what they could for themselves, and were partially provided for by the overseers. In many cases merchants provided them with the necessities of life, taking their chances of having the bills allowed by the board. In all cases the county was expected to pay the bills for their maintenance, whether kept on contract, furnished by order of the overseer, or through pity (or cupidity) of the merchant.

At each recurring session of the commissioners' court, pauper bills increased in number and grew in magnitude, and more and more care was necessary, and was exercised, to sift out and pay only those which were for the necessities of life, cutting off and rejecting any and all which bear the least taint of suspicion. For instance, some bills presented would, perhaps, show that sugar enough had been furnished to a pauper in three months' time, to have lasted him or his family, for a year, and this would raise a suspicion in the minds of the commissioners, that perhaps something else than sugar had been furnished — an article for which it was known payment would be refused. Investigation would follow, which would generally result in the rejection of a part of the bill.

We do not wish to make any invidious references, but esquire Wilmerton related a story to us, the other day, which comes to our mind in recording the above. Some years ago he received a large number of bills from a house in Rock Island, for collection, upon



parties living in Pre-emption and adjoining townships. One of these particularly attracted his attention, owing to the frequent charges for "headache medicine" by the quart, half gallon and gallon; this item occurring with alarming regularity, showing each and every visit to the city of the good old farmer against whom it was made. The 'squire was well acquainted with him, and had never known of his being subject to severe attacks of this disease, and his curiosity was aroused to know what this remedy was, and on his first visit to Rock Island he asked the maker of the bill to enlighten him. The dealer laughed, and for answer beckoned him into a back room and silently pointed to a barrel labeled "whisky." "Headache medicine" looked better on the bills; but like the "sugar" on the pauper bills, it looked suspicious.

Again, most of the adjoining counties had provided poor-houses, and refused longer to support indigent persons unless they would become inmates thereof; and while there were many who were not too proud to receive their entire subsistence from the county, there were few who would willingly "go to the poor-house," as they had a false idea that this course was degrading. Rather than go where they could not only be better cared for, but would have an opportunity to do what they could for their own maintenance, they prepared to emigrate to some county not possessed of this bugbear, and not a few crossed the borders into our county and soon became a county charge.

Under these circumstances, the commissioners in 1853 (E. Gilmore, Jr., county judge, and William Wilmerton and John Glancey, associate county justices of the peace), after much deliberation, decided to purchase a farm for the county, upon which might be erected suitable buildings for an infirmary. Mr. Wilmerton soon found what he thought would be a suitable farm, and a special meeting of the commissioners was held at the court-house in Keithsburg, September 20, 1853, which is the first record we can find relating to the subject of a poor-house. At this meeting they ratified a provisional contract made by Mr. Wilmerton with John I. Clark and Gersham Vannatta, whereby the latter sold to the county 110 acres of land lying in the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 33, T. 15, and in the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 4, T. 14, both in Range 3, W. of the 4th P.M., the latter being timber land. The consideration was \$1,400, and two orders were drawn at this meeting, for \$700 each, in favor of Clark and Vannatta. The deed was made September 23, 1853, and acknowledged before W. A. Bridgford, J.P., of Millersburg, and was recorded January 12, 1854, by T. B. Cabeen, Recorder, in Book M of Deeds, pages 307 and 308.

March 8, 1854, the county farm was leased to Joseph G. Gilmore

for one year, but the terms of the lease are not given in the record. A part of the contract, however, was that he should keep a pauper and his wife, named Golden; and we find that at the March session (1855) of the board of supervisors he was allowed \$8.50 as balance due him on the contract.

From the minutes of the June session of the board of supervisors (1854), the first session after the adoption of township organization, we copy the following order:

“It is ordered by the board, that Graham Lee, Elisha Miles, and Tyler McWhorter be and are appointed a committee to examine the condition of the county farm and its requirements, with respect to accommodating all the paupers of the county.”

In September of the same year, Graham Lee was appointed agent for the county to lease the farm, etc.

In March, 1856, Mr. Gilmore was paid \$58.50 as balance due him on contract or lease. At the same term the board unanimously pass a resolution recommending to their successors the urgent necessity of improving the farm, so that it would “accommodate all the paupers in the county,” this action being suggested by the large number of pauper claims presented at that session.

At a special term in June, 1856, Graham Lee, Thomas Likely, and Tyler McWhorter were appointed a committee to prepare and report a plan for a poor-house, and as nearly as possible the cost of the same. They made their report at the same session, which was accepted, and McWhorter, Lee, and N. P. Partridge were appointed to make a design, advertise for and receive bids, and contract for the erection of the house.

Said commissioners reported at the September meeting that they had received, on the 28th of August, five bids: two for brick and three for stone buildings; that four of the bids had ranged from \$4,200, to \$4,600; that the fifth was for \$3,400 for a stone building; that this latter figure was deemed reasonable, but the bidder, Mr. Ralph Growe, required partial payment in advance, and it was necessary to provide funds before closing the contract. Accordingly an arrangement was made with the drainage commissioner to borrow money from the swamp land fund. That the first payment had been made, and the work of excavating the cellar commenced; that owing to the failure of the drainage commissioner to make collections, they were unable to get money for the second payment, whereby the work had been greatly hindered and delayed. They request the board to sanction their action, and to decide upon some definite system of managing the farm in future; both of which requests we presume were granted, but we can



find no record of any action beyond receiving and recording their report. This, however, was the last year the farm was leased, as a whole, a steward or superintendent having since been employed.

In March, 1857, Mr. J. G. Gilmore's lease terminated, and this time he owed the county \$124.50. The county bought of him fourteen acres of land adjoining the poor-farm for \$324.50, getting one year's time on the \$200 balance, at ten per cent. They also appropriated \$1,300 for prosecuting the work on the infirmary; authorized the commissioners to borrow \$800 of the swamp land fund, and made provisions for the repayment of all sums heretofore borrowed from the fund.

In September, 1858, a committee was appointed to visit the poor-farm and report. They suggested that the "steward" system be abolished, and that a competent man be employed to superintend the farm, under the direction of a standing committee in regard to improvements, purchase of stock, etc. This report was adopted, and a committee appointed who made a contract with Humphrey Riddell, at \$350 per year, his term commencing March 8, 1859. Mr. Riddell was re-employed from year to year for nine successive years, which fact attests his eminent fitness for the position, which was recognized by the board in an increase of his salary from time to time until instead of \$350 they paid him \$500 per year. This was, of course, in addition to the board and keeping of himself and family.

While upon the subject we will give the list of stewards and superintendents in their order, so far as can be ascertained: Joseph G. Gilmore leased and managed the farm the first three years. It was then placed under the charge of committees, as before mentioned, who employed stewards to care for the inmates, etc. While the building was in progress, Tyler McWhorter, as chairman of the building committee, had the oversight of the farm, and Justus Southwell and Wm. Clark held the stewardship under his administration. Then came Mr. Riddell for nine years; Samuel H. Darbyshire from 1868 to 1875; John W. Dihel from 1875 to 1880; and from February, 1880, to the present time, Mr. J. McWillis, who is now holding the position for the third term. His salary is \$600, which is at least \$400 less than should be paid.

The building is well arranged and will accommodate comfortably about thirty inmates. A commodious wing accommodates the superintendent's family, and a frame kitchen was added to the building some years ago. What is known as the "old house" was put in tolerably decent repair, and is used for sleeping apartments when the main building is overcrowded, but it cannot be so used in extreme cold weather.

The farm is provided with ample barns, granaries and tool houses; is well stocked with horses, cattle and hogs; has a large orchard and an abundance of small fruits.

The inmates are all required to perform such labor as they are able or fitted for; the women doing their own cooking, washing, ironing and chamber work, and a part of their own sewing; while the men work in the fields or about the barns. Discipline is necessarily very strict, but is seldom severe. Among them are the weak-minded, idiotic and insane; and for the latter special provisions in the way of cages or barred windows and doors are a necessity.

The position of superintendent is one of great responsibility and of constant trials, vexations and watchfulness, and it is to the honor of each and all who have held the position that they have served year after year in that capacity. That any one of them has served one or more years to the entire satisfaction of everybody could not be expected; that each has left the farm in better condition than he found it is most highly commendable.

Since the completion of the building the number of inmates has averaged about thirty per year. The largest number ever upon the books at one time was fifty-four, during the administration of S. H. Darbyshire; and every available resource of the farm and infirmary were then taxed to the utmost.

Among the present inmates are the following, who have been there for eight years or more, with date of entry: Dedimus Black, April 5, 1859; Mrs. King, December 19, 1861; Logan Smithers, June 7, 1864; John Hall, December 30, 1865; Norman Powers, May 12, 1866; Sarah Albee, August 17, 1869; Elizabeth Krouse, October 2, 1871; Richard Bell, May 24, 1874.

Whenever children are admitted it is the rule to advertise at once for homes for them, and where possible secure their adoption by good families. Where this is not possible they are allowed to go and work for their board, or board and clothing, owing to their capabilities.

February 1, 1865, forty acres adjoining the farm were purchased of John Dellett, and on March 1, 1882, 200 acres were purchased of Peter Blue, being the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33, T. 15 N., R. 3 W. of the 4th P. M., for which they paid the sum of \$10,000 cash. Small timber lots in Sec. 4, T. 14, R. 3, have been purchased at different times, and the farm now comprises 395 acres. One man is hired by the county, in addition to the superintendent, and what he cannot work advantageously with the resources at his command, is leased on good terms to responsible tenants.



The farm is becoming nearer self-supporting year by year, and has proven from the first a paying investment, to leave out all other considerations. It is true that it has not put an end to a deluge of pauper bills from the several townships at each recurring session of the board, but it has largely reduced them in number and amounts asked for, and the bills receive a close scrutiny and thorough investigation before being allowed. But so long as supervisors are allowed to assist paupers in their respective townships, at public expense, these bills must be paid; and some of our supervisors seem to think their townships will be disgraced if they are represented by an inmate in the infirmary, and to prevent this will issue orders and indorse bills that aggregate much more than it would cost to keep the pauper where he or she most properly belong, at the county farm.

The visitor to our county farm and infirmary will see no grand pile of masonry, erected with a view mainly for architectural effect, but a large and substantial building, well adapted for the purpose erected. That improvements might now be added, or that a different plan might embody them if a building was now to be built, which would better the accommodations and lessen the labor, is readily conceded; but it has and will for some years to come furnish ample accommodation for all who have been or may be consigned to its friendly shelter.

It is situated three and one-half miles due north of Aledo. A beautiful drive leads to the house, the site for which was selected by an artistic eye. Inviting shade trees, the lawn, the orchard, the fruit, the waving grain on either side in summer, the well-filled granaries in winter, all present an inviting appearance; nothing repulsive meets the eye. It is a home for the unfortunate and the imbecile: an institution that is a credit to the generosity and liberality of the citizens of Mercer county.

In addition to the gentlemen mentioned as furnishing data for the foregoing, we are indebted to county clerk C. C. Wordin for kind assistance in examining the records in his office, and a long, though fruitless, search for some reports which would have proven valuable could they have been found; to superintendent J. McWillis for like assistance, and to numerous others for the pains taken in answering our numerous inquiries. In the name of the readers of this history we earnestly thank each and all.

## MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL BOARD.

CONTRIBUTED BY L. B. DOUGHTY.

In starting out for data for this sketch we were confronted with the to us startling fact that the first record book of the society, embracing the records from its first organization up to 1873, was missing. Secretary and ex-secretaries were appealed to, but no trace of the missing record has as yet been discovered. Here was a dilemma for which we were not prepared, and one that necessitates a mere sketch, which, while generally correct, is so incomplete and barren in detail as to be, to us, at least, very unsatisfactory. An appeal to those who were prominent in the organization and during the first years of the society was made, and while all were willing to render assistance, not one was willing to trust his memory as to details of the beginning. Three men were mentioned as the first secretary; two of them we have seen, and each thinks the other was the man, but neither is sure. Under these circumstances the reader will pardon us for any inaccuracies or omissions he may discover.

The society was organized in 1853, by prominent farmers in the county, for the encouragement and promotion of agricultural and mechanical pursuits. Among the organizers were Tyler McWhorter, Graham Lee, Joseph Trego, Dudley Willits, J. E. Bay, Walter Pryne, Elbridge G. Howe, William Green, Cruser Gray, James and William P. Strong, Washington Wolf, the Drurys, Nobles, and many others. We shall not attempt to give the officers; we cannot learn with certainty who they were.

Millersburg was chosen as the place for holding the exhibitions, and the citizens of that village purchased three acres of land of Elbridge G. Howe; cleared it of the timber and undergrowth, and built a fence around it (three sides being fenced with the brush taken from the land, the front only being a substantial board fence), and the whole was donated to the society. The consideration was \$50, and the deed was made, September 30, 1854, to "the treasurer of the Mercer County Agricultural Society and his successor in office."

The exhibitions were held during the last of September or the first of October of each year, and have been a success from the start, the society always paying its premiums in full, and with but few exceptions has had something left after so doing and meeting current expenses.

The three acres soon became too small, and two more acres were purchased of Mr. Howe; and when it was decided to add trotting to the



exhibition, eight acres were leased from H. W. Thornton, upon which a one-fourth mile track was prepared.

Two features of our early fairs will bear mention, although both have long since lost a place on the programme. An agricultural address, often delivered by a professional politician, who perhaps knew no more about raising corn and potatoes than he did of Greek, was for awhile considered the main attraction; and the equestrienne exhibition was also relied upon as a drawing feature. It is needless to say that the latter was of the two the most popular, and drew by far the largest and most enthusiastic crowd.

Owing to the excitement consequent to the breaking out of the war of the rebellion in 1861, no fair was held that year, but they were resumed in 1862, and have been held regularly ever since.

When the railroad was completed to Aledo, in 1869, the society decided to remove to that point, owing to the increased facilities for getting to and from the fair, and twenty-seven acres of ground were purchased of D. V. Reed, situated about one mile southwest of the business center of town, and the fair of 1869 was held on the new grounds.

During the first years of the society, membership tickets were sold at \$1 each, and the purchaser was presented with a badge which not only entitled him to admission during the fair, but also admitted all members of his family, except children, who were "of age." Under this plan gate receipts were always small in proportion to the number in attendance, and it was finally displaced by the regular ticket system, the purchaser of four twenty-five cent tickets being entitled to a certificate of membership, which latter gives him a vote in society, but will not admit him to the grounds.

When the law was passed creating the state board of agriculture, our society reorganized under its provisions, under the name of the "Mercer County Agricultural Board," a name it still bears. Substantial buildings, stalls, pens, etc., have been erected as the finances would warrant. The board during the past year paid the last of its indebtedness for land, and has kept other bills paid up. A fine exhibition hall is now in course of erection, in the shape of a Greek cross, which will cost about \$2,000. On the grounds is a splendid one-third mile track, and fronting it a commodious amphitheater, built, however, more for use than ornament. A sufficient number of wells supply all the water required, and more hay is raised on the ground enclosing the track than is required to feed the stock brought for exhibition.

Gambling and the sale of intoxicants have ever been rigidly

excluded, and many have favored the abolition of trotting or racing of any kind from the grounds.

There was a time when this feature threatened to overshadow all else, and our fair became what so many others in the state had merged into—a three-days' horse-race, with a few implements and farm products as a kind of side-show. Taking warning, however, by the bankruptcy of neighboring societies, resulting largely from this course, our board adopted a happy medium, which has so far resulted to the best interests of the board, financially, while satisfying all but the ultra advocates of either side. Trials of speed are reduced in number and almost entirely confined to horses owned within the county, and the premiums are liberal without being excessive. Premiums on stock and farm products, together with manufactured articles of all kinds of home production have been advanced; while machinery, farm implements, etc., from foreign manufactories, are simply awarded a diploma.

The ladies' department, including needle work, embroideries, samples of culinary skill and dairy work, have ever been an interesting, attractive and important feature of the exhibitions, and too much praise cannot be accorded to the ladies for their interest and unremitting efforts to make these departments attractive, and we can say of them what can be said of no other department: the display has always been full and large.

In the exhibition of fine horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep, our fairs have never been surpassed in quality by the state fair, and some years scarcely equaled in quantity; while in fruits, farm products, and vegetables, our average display would be creditable at any state exhibition, and in exceptional years is never surpassed anywhere.

The board offer from \$2,000 to \$2,500 annually as premiums. All articles and animals are admitted free, except horses, entries for speed, and sweepstakes on all other stock. These pay an entrance fee of ten per cent on first premium, except entries for speed, which pay ten per cent on purses offered. Sheep, however, pay no entrance fee on sweepstakes, as only a diploma is awarded in that class.

We cannot give a list of the officers of the society from its organization, and must content ourselves with a mention of a few whom we know to have been prominently connected with it, while others who have perhaps been more prominent are necessarily omitted. In addition to those first mentioned are J. E. Harroun, A. J. Streeter, Henry Lee, David Calhoun, D. W. Sedwick, E. B. David, Joseph B. Lair, Samuel Wharton, C. F. Durston, J. U. David, A. P. Petrie, A. B. Swisher, James Feather, William I. Nevius, Robert Candor,



John Brady, O. A. Bridgford, Walter Lloyd, L. B. Lloyd, J. M. Mannon, William Doak, G. D. Miller, John Whitsett, John A. Gilmore, D. T. Hindman, W. K. Fulton, D. H. Hayes, J. M. Warwick, M. L. Marsh, J. Taylor Gilmore, L. V. Willits, J. H. Purdum, R. J. Cabeen, L. B. Howe, J. J. Huston; and right here we will stop, for their name is legion.

Robert Holloway has added much interest to the horse show for the past few years, by an exhibition of his fine imported horses, while William Drury is entitled to the same credit for a much longer period.

As a fact worthy of record the fairs of the Mercer county agricultural boards have been more uniformly successful in every way than any other fair in the state, and our exhibitions deservedly stand at the head, taking them as a whole, and have so stood for a number of years. For this proud position credit is due to the citizens of the county generally, who have ever shown their interest in its success by attending its exhibitions and contributing in every possible way toward its advancement. Wise selection of officers and careful management on their part has insured a sound financial basis upon which future improvements may be safely inaugurated.

The twenty-ninth annual fair of the board will be held on September 19, 20, 21 and 22, 1882, at their grounds near Aledo. The following are the officers for the current year: president, A. B. Swisher, Eliza; vice-president, R. J. Cabeen, Keithsburg; treasurer, E. B. David, Aledo; secretary, J. F. Henderson, Aledo; executive committee. David Calhoun, Keithsburg; J. B. Lair, Aledo; G. D. Miller, Aledo; D. W. Sedwick, Suez; J. U. David, New Windsor; J. B. Chandler, Sunbeam; Mrs. W. D. Fleharty, New Windsor; Mrs. H. B. Frazier, Viola; Mrs. W. A. Lorimer, Aledo; Mrs. J. M. Mannon, New Boston; general superintendent, Robert Candor, Aledo; marshal, Samuel Wharton, Aledo; marshal of the ring, John F. Harvey, Aledo. Capt. E. B. David, present treasurer, was for five years secretary of the board, and is now vice-president of the state board of agriculture for this district.

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### DUNCAN TOWNSHIP.

This township was named by the first settlers in honor of Buford Duncan, who was himself the first of all. The soil in this township is susceptible of a high grade of cultivation, being composed of rich, black loam. Camp creek, the principle stream, runs through the southeast portion, and Eliza creek forms in the northwest part of the township,

and runs in a southwest course through Duncan and Eliza townships, emptying into Bald Eagle lake, five miles from New Boston. In places Camp creek is skirted with heavy timber along its banks, to which the various wild climbers cling for support. All along the banks of Camp, from Bald Eagle lake to its source, wherever shaded by timber, was once the favorite camping ground of the red man, and hence the creek derives its name; but they have long since disappeared with the advent of the few first white settlers. They have gone, but have not forgotten the place they once controlled, and those of them who still survive in lamentable tones portray their recollections of the home of their childhood; that once delightful hunting ground. But time has wrought many changes since then; where once was the site of the wigwam are now fields of waving corn. The old mill once in active operation upon its banks just west of Millersburg, has also disappeared, giving way to more powerful modern improvements, and not a vestige of it remains except the recollections of its former usefulness in grinding out its allowance to hungry settlers. Around it was a pleasant spot in summer time, when the woods were green around and the pond like a shield of polished silver, with the water flying in showers of spray over the huge, slowly turning wheel. But in winter, when the trees were bare and the snow lay piled in drifts upon the ground, a weary, desolate place was the mill of Camp creek.

Where once could be seen one vast sea of unbroken prairie, well cultivated farms and handsome farm houses now meet the eye; and dotted here and there with churches and school-houses on every hand, which note the progress that intellect and industry have made.

This township is comprised of No. 15, R. 4 west of the 4th P. M., and is well supplied with coal ranging from two and a half to five feet in thickness.

#### FIRST SETTLERS.

The first settler in what is now Duncan township was Buford Duncan, as early as 1834 or 1836. The township took its name from this man. The next family to come was Duncan's son-in-law, James Vernon. William Epperly came also about the same time. These settled in the same neighborhood, on section 16, school land. The first school-house was built on some of this land, of which Duncan donated one acre. It was called the Duncan school-house then. Joseph King was another of the early comers. He settled farther south toward the line between Duncan and Millersburg, on section 23, now owned by J. C. Staley. From about 1837 arrivals were numerous. Among these later settlers were Ebenezer Bunting, Joseph N.,



Elbridge G., and Lucian B. Howe (brothers), Tyler McWhorter, and his brother-in-law, William S. Roe. They settled together. McWhorter started a nursery, made a handsome place, and finally removed his nursery to his present location south of Aledo.

[The following from an early resident of Duncan township (Tyler McWhorter, Esq.) will be read with interest.—ED.]

The first settler of this township was Buford Duncan, who located on section 16 in the year 1838. Buford Duncan came from Indiana. He was a man characterized for plainness of manners and the strictest honesty. He was already somewhat advanced in life and was the father of a considerable family of children, most of whom settled in the same neighborhood. Soon after Buford Duncan had located in the township, his brother, Braxton Duncan, located on section 17. Braxton Duncan was of a slender constitution and only survived a few years. Subsequently several persons connected with the Duncan family located in the same neighborhood and formed a nucleus of what became known as "Duncan settlement." Among the early settlers of that neighborhood should be mentioned William Epperly and James Vernon. Buford Duncan has been dead many years. Among the early settlers of the township of Duncan was also Luman Castle, who located on the south boundary of the township (section 36) near the town of Millersburg.

It was also at an early date that Joseph King located on the south side of section 33. It was near the same time that Robert Morris located on section 25. Robert Morris was from Scotland. He was a man of some mathematical education. In 1844 he was elected county surveyor. He also served as the first township treasurer of Duncan township, and held that position till the spring of 1846, when, being attracted to an overland adventure to California, he resigned his charge as township treasurer, and the writer of this sketch became his successor. Mr. Morris died in California. About the spring of 1844 Elbridge G. Howe and Lucian B. Howe made a location on the north part of section 33. It was in the summer of 1845 that the writer of this sketch, accompanied by a brother-in-law (William S. Rowe), located on section 31. It was then the sole purpose of the writer, with the limited means at his command, to start a large experimental orchard in connection with the nursery business. The name chosen for the nursery was "Pome-Roy (Royal Fruit) Nursery"; and by that name the neighborhood is still known. It is scarcely necessary to add that "Pome-Roy Nursery" subsequently produced the trees for most of the oldest bearing orchards of this county, and for some of the adjoining counties. At this early date very few public roads were yet laid out in the township.

The few traveled roads wound their way over the prairies, following the most favorable make of ground.

The small number of domestic animals had very little effect in suppressing the free growth of the wild prairie grass which on all sides grew up and waved to the summer winds. For many years the early settlers could mow a full supply of hay on the open prairies, and when the frosts of autumn had killed the prairie grass it was with watchful care that the early settlers felt the necessity of protecting their property from the sweeping destruction of prairie fires. These fires were often started ten or fifteen miles distant; how or by whom started could seldom be ascertained. On many occasions both men and women were rallied out through the hours of night to defend fields and fences against the approaching prairie fires. Some very serious losses occurred in the early settlement of the country. It was the practice to plow "fire guards" around exposed sides of farms.

At the time the writer of this sketch first settled no school-house was built in the township, and the only religious services that had yet been held were conducted by a branch of the Mormons. It was under a preacher by the name of Hinckle that these exercises were mainly conducted, but a more noted revivalist, by the name of Ringer, came to his assistance. Considerable zeal and earnestness were awakened. But subsequently this movement met with some unfortunate disasters.

The first school-house was built in the Duncan settlement, the whole township being taxed as one district. Subsequently another district was set off on the south side of the township, called the Pome-Roy district. Several other divisions of school districts have since taken place. It now has nine school-houses and three churches. It has become a prosperous agricultural township, and sustains an able and industrious population. But this township is so peculiarly situated that it is not crossed by any of the leading lines of travel.

TYLER MCWHORTER.

#### CHURCHES.

There are four churches in the town. The Wesleyan Methodist was the first to organize, December 7, 1855. In the spring of 1833, E. R. Powers and George Keneday moved with their families from Ohio to Illinois. Being members of that church in the former state, they brought their letters of recommendation with them. They purchased land in Perryton township. There was no religious organization near where they settled, and they were anxious to promote the cause of christianity, and had a preference for a church that did not recognize slave-holders and which did exert its influence against intemperance,



war, and secret oath-bound societies. They had been in Illinois nearly a year before they found a member of that order. Finally learning that there were Wesleyans at Millersburg, they went there to obtain a preacher, and after a short time the Rev. Mr. Mekpam came to their place and preached the first sermon listened to in Perryton, and preached by a Wesleyan. About two weeks after this, a young man named B. F. Haskins preached at the same place. These sermons were delivered some time in April, 1854. In the month of July following, the Rev. J. M. Snyder visited the neighborhood, and preached by appointment. His field of labor included Perryton, and here he made appointments to preach once in four weeks on Sabbath. These exercises were held, alternately, at the houses of Mr. Powers and Keneday. At the beginning of the next conference year the citizens of Perryton erected a school house near the Hamlet postoffice, where the services were then held. The Rev. Mr. Snyder having dispensed with his former field of labor, he was now able to preach to them once in two weeks, on Sunday. During this time a revival was held and twenty-seven members were added to the church. Mr. Powers and Keneday, with their families had, a year previously, joined the church at Millersburg, but by request changed and joined the church in their own neighborhood. The first officers of the church were: J. M. Snyder, officiating elder; Levi Cooper, clerk. The first members were: Ebenezer R. Powers, Cornelia Powers, George Keneday and his wife, Celestia Keneday, Levi Cooper and his wife, Lucy Cooper, Jonas Fender, John Cooper, M. Welch. On the 16th of December of that year, were added to the church: Daniel Bopes, Henry Freeman, Joseph F. Cooper, D. H. Cooper, Sarah Cooper, Sarah McIntyre, Ann Asquith. Up to 1856 they had thirty-one regular members and twenty-one probationers. This church was prosperous from the first; but having no place in the township large enough to accommodate all who thronged to the place of worship, they accordingly built a church of their own on the center of section 24.

Antioch Baptist church was organized July 22, 1866. This church owes its existence to George Miller, who, living at Sugar Grove, was a prominent member of that denomination, and church services were held at his house at an early period. When Mr. Miller left this county for Oregon, the place of holding meetings was changed to Lunn's school-house. This was called the Sugar Grove church. It increased in membership until finally they were joined by a few from Edgington, and a new church formed at the above place. The members most prominent in the movement were: John Young, James Young, L. H. Castor, B. F. Miller, and Frederick Volkel. At the school-

house preaching was held until 1870, at which time a new church was erected on section 1. This edifice was built by subscription at a cost of \$2,300. Among the first early preachers were: Henry D. Kline, John Young and Alexander Sutton. A revival took place in 1867, under the preaching of one Pickert, an evangelist, which was the first revival after occupying the new church. The next was under the supervision of James Young, in 1863. The next, conducted by J. R. R. Young, added fifty-three new members to the strength of the church. Among the early membership of the church were: Lewis Landreth and wife, John Downing and wife, Milton Elliott and wife, James Elliott and wife, L. C. Elliott and family, E. W. Miller and wife, B. F. Miller and wife, John McLaughlin and wife, T. C. Lewis and wife.

Among the first organizers of the Buffalo Prairie church, of Duncan, Jesse L. Adams took an active interest. He was born in Bucks county, Ohio, March 23, 1808. He subsequently moved from that state to Madison county, Indiana, and settled in the wilderness. In 1822 he went to visit his older brother, who was then living on the Wabash river. While sojourning he united with the Church of Jesus Christ, and was called to the office of elder in 1835. In 1835 he moved to Mercer county, settling near Glancey's lake, in Eliza township. He being enthusiastic in the faith, immediately began the agitation of establishing a church, and accordingly in 1862, the church was organized with eleven members. Winthrop Holmes was called to the eldership. The first meetings were held at the houses of the different members. The services were conducted by Elder J. W. Gillon, J. H. Gurley, and W. Holmes. The latter named dying in 1865, his place was filled by J. F. Adams. Up to 1865 the church had a membership of twenty-seven. In 1868 a revival took place, at which time 103 were added to the church, making in all 130 members, and they immediately set about building a church by subscription. This was dedicated September 5, 1868. In the fall of 1873 J. F. Adams resigned the eldership of the church, and David S. Holmes was called; he resigned in 1875, and E. F. Bryant was called. Under his administration the church reached 256 members.

#### ORGANIZATION.

Pursuant to notice given for township organization, an election was held on April 4, 1854, at the school-house in district No. 1. The meeting was called to order by choosing George W. Bennett clerk, William Epperly, moderator, and Tyler McWhorter, clerk, pro tem. At this meeting it was decided to elect four poundmasters, and the



ones chosen were : W. S. Roe, Michael Miller, Buford Duncan and Samuel Herson. Tyler McWhorter was chosen supervisor, receiving thirty-two votes ; Alvah Sutton, town clerk ; Caleb Vernon, collector ; William S. Roe, assessor ; Samuel Herson, G. W. Bennett, John Page, Buford Duncan, and James Vernon, overseers of poor ; William Summers and James Lloyd, commissioners of highways ; William Ducan, constable ; James Vernon, justice of the peace. At this election thirty votes were cast. A resolution restraining swine, sheep, and cattle from running at large was adopted.

One mile north of Millersburg, on a high ridge of ground covered with oaks, is located the Millersburg cemetery. This ridge of ground extends toward the north and slopes gently to the east and west. The lettering on many of the old head-stones still standing has been obliterated by the elements, showing that the place has been in use for that purpose for many years. It is perhaps the first burial place in the county. Over two hundred are reposing beneath the shades of the surrounding oaks.

Until 1881 Duncan township was without a postoffice. At that time Mr. Leonard Gorber built a store-house on section 2, and John Ball was appointed postmaster. He was also the first merchant in the township. In the spring of 1882 he sold his stock to John Boltinghouse, who was appointed in his stead. April 17, 1882, a second postoffice was established in Duncan township, and Edward Cornell was appointed postmaster. This is situated in the extreme southwestern corner of the township.

A mill was built on Camp creek in 1835, on the line between Duncan and Millersburg townships. This was a grist and saw-mill. It has long since been numbered with the things of the past, and only a few of the old timbers remain to mark the spot where the early pioneer patiently awaited his turn to be accommodated.

Luman Castle was the first discoverer of coal in Duncan township. This was about 1845 or 1846. One McDonald was the first to mine coal. Until he commenced, people who wished dug what they wanted out of the side of the ravine. There being plenty of timber then there was not much demand for coal, but as the population of the township increased they began using coal in order to save the timber for making rails and other purposes.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

HENRY DUNN, farmer and stock-raiser, was born in Brown county, Ohio, in 1831, where he received the advantages of a common school education, and began to assist about the farm at the age of sixteen.

On coming to this county he first stopped at New Boston, and after a six months' stay he removed to Eliza township, where he remained ten years. He afterward resided a year each in Mercer and Millersburg, and in 1863 bought land of James Vernon in section 21, near Dunn's school-house, which took its name from him. He was married to Miss A. Waters, formerly of Ohio. Her parents came out soon after, and being dissatisfied with the country he took them back and returned with his own parents. Mr. Dunn possesses a rare combination of good qualities, which fit him for the business in which he is engaged. He is a man of independent ideas, indomitable energy and fine business tact, all of which has been the secret of his success in life.

DAVID H. LIVINGSTON was born in 1827 in Columbiana county, Ohio, where he received a common school education, and after learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until 1851. At that time he came to Rock Island, where for the first year he followed the business. He then moved to Mercer county, settling first at Millersburg, still continuing the business there. Here he lived for ten years. In 1861 he bought his first land, on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, in Duncan township, and in 1863 bought on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 7, and other lands adjoining, until at the present time he owns 225 acres of choice land, which is the result of hard labor and careful management. He returned to Ohio in the spring of 1852, and was married to Miss Nancy McDevitt, of his native county. Four children were the result of this union, as follows: Jo. W., Minnie A., J. G., and Lizzie.

WILLIAM EPPERLY, SR., (deceased) was born in Montgomery county, Virginia, August 12, 1796, and was married in 1819 to Miss Alley Wade, of the same county. Somewhere between the years 1831 and 1833 they removed from Virginia to the State of Indiana, at which time the family consisted of seven children. After a residence of thirteen years in Indiana, they removed to Mercer county, Illinois, where he spent the remainder of his life. Soon after his arrival here he purchased 320 acres of choice farming land, and by industry, economy, and the assistance of his faithful wife, succeeded in obtaining a title to the same, besides saving considerable money. While residing in Indiana three children were added to the family, and six in Illinois. Mr. Epperly was one of the early settlers of Duncan township, and was widely and favorably known. After having spent a long and useful life, he passed away, August 10, 1879, at the good old age of eighty-three. He was a member of the reorganized church of Jesus Christ, of Latter Day Saints, having been identified therewith for ten years prior. He died in full faith of the doctrine of the church. After his decease his property was divided among his children, he having

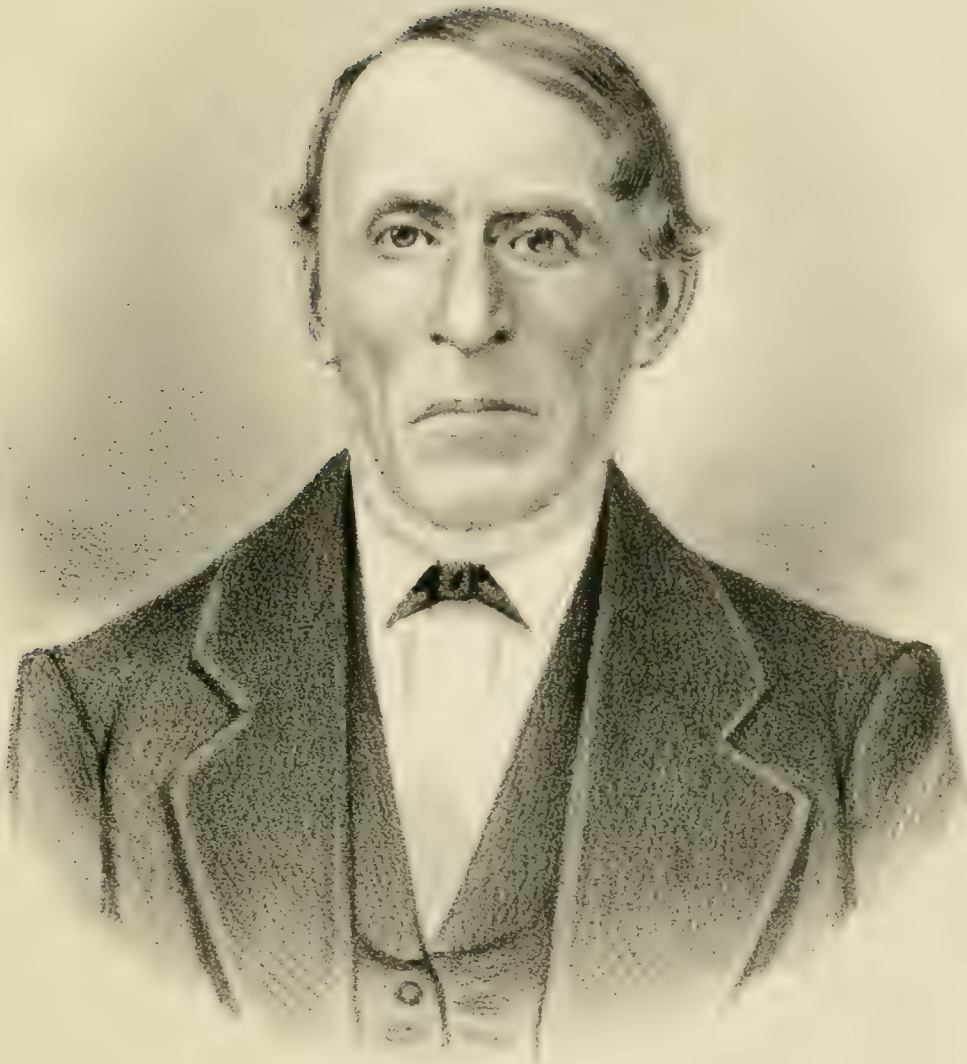


made the arrangements before his death concerning the same. Ample provisions were made for his wife, who still survives him, and for his daughter, who will receive a dividend of the remaining portion of the estate.

SAMUEL SHEESE, though not an early settler of Duncan township, is nevertheless a good illustration of a limited class of citizens who came early to this township and learned to adapt themselves to the anomalous and changing circumstances of early settler life, and who wrung success from hardship and privations of an age when financial derangements were common. He was born in the State of Ohio in 1834. At the age of twelve he went with his parents from his native state to Indiana, where he spent his youth in working on a farm. His financial condition of life at that time was a barrier against an education, there being no free schools. From Indiana, at the age of twenty, he came to Clay county, Illinois, whither he was followed a short time after by his mother and two sisters. In 1857 he came to Mercer county, planted a crop and built a house. He was married to Miss Mary Fender about twenty-eight years ago. By this marriage they have twelve children born to them. Barehanded and without even the advantages of an education, Mr. Sheese began life for himself; but his 550 acres of well-improved land and fine buildings are a proof of his ability to gain wealth.

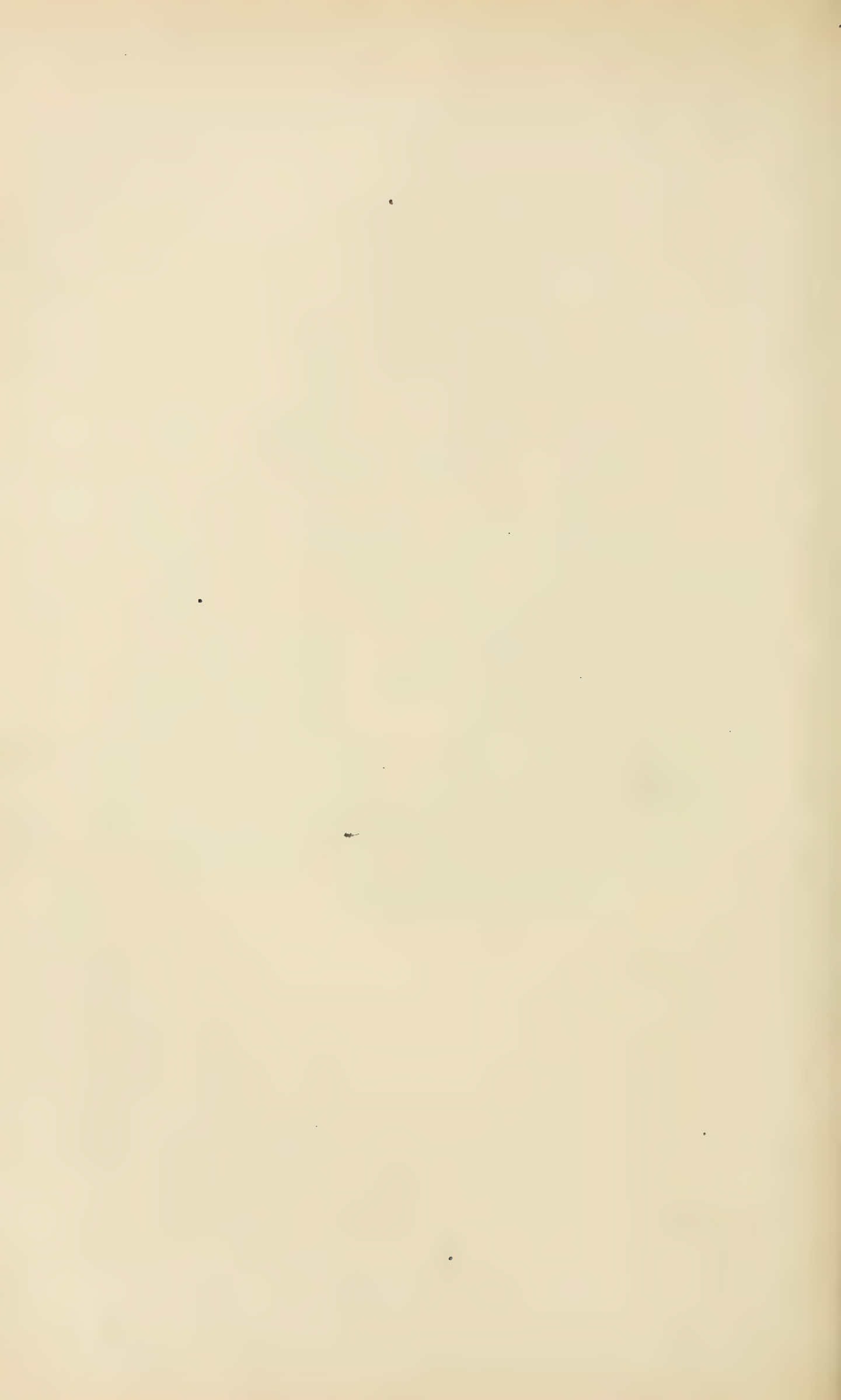
CHARLES ELSWORTH LUNN, son of John and Mildred Lunn, was born in Mercer county in 1861. His father was among the oldest settlers of the county. He died while our subject was quite young, and his mother married a second time and moved to Port Royal, where he received a part of his education. On their return he was married, in September, 1881, to Miss Eva, daughter of Charles York, after which he moved upon his father's farm which he had made in 1853.

JONAS FENDER, son of Lewis and Jane Fender, was born in North Carolina, May 16, 1834. His parents and grandparents were also born in that state. His grandfather, Andrew Fender, is now living with him at the golden age of 100, and up to the winter of 1882 was active and worked about the farm. He has been four times married. His last wife is still living at an advanced age. Mr. Fender is the parent of three generations of children, sixteen in number. He was twice enrolled for the draft of 1812 but was not chosen. He first moved from North Carolina to Indiana, and to Illinois in 1856. Jonas Fender, the subject of this sketch, moved with his parents from their native state to Indiana, and thence to Illinois in 1853, in which year his father's death occurred. Soon after his arrival in the county he purchased a farm containing 302 acres in section 24, which he has



WILLIAM RETHERFORD.  
(DECEASED)





improved, and erected upon the same a handsome dwelling-house with all the modern improvements. Ever since he began the improvement of his farm he has been engaged in the coal business, of which his farm contains a fine supply. Mr. Fender is a member of the Wesleyan church, and was one of the founders. It stands just a few rods from his house. He is also an enthusiastic temperance worker. The esteem here placed upon his character is the willing testimony of many who have known him for years.

Among the men of progress in Duncan township there will be found no name more distinctly representative than that of GEORGE VATER (deceased). From early childhood his life had been an active one. To him many owe the advantages of improvement in their stock. This was his study and delight and the principal part of his business. He came to America in company with his brother in an early day, and for the first few years rented land, until 1865, when he bought John Mitchel's interest in 260 acres of land, and subsequently added to it 150 acres in section 13. To this he added substantial improvements, notwithstanding the fact that when he arrived here he had nothing but his hands to assure this success in life. At the time of his death, in 1879, he left his widowed wife with this estate unincumbered. Mr. Vater was born in Germany in 1836. His father having died while he was young left our subject to his own resources. He was married in 1863 to Miss Winegard, of Rock Island county. The result of the marriage was seven children, five girls and two boys.

The subject of this sketch, JOHN BRAUCHT, who is now passing his declining years on his farm in Duncan township, with all the comforts of life around him, was one among the enterprising first settlers of that township, at a time when industry and energy were requisites to success in life. Mr. Braucht was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, in 1821, his parents having also been born in Lancaster county in that state. From there they moved to Dauphin county, and thence to Ohio. In the fall of 1852 Mr. Braucht came with his parents to Mercer county, first settling a few miles south of Aledo, where our subject resided one year, or until 1853, when they bought in Duncan township of James Hartman. On this place he still resides. He has devoted all his energies to improvement, until he has now one of the best improved farms in the township. He was married in Ohio. His wife died in 1881.

The family of JAMES LLOYD originated in Wales, but his more recent ancestors were raised in this country. His parents were Benijah and Elizabeth Lloyd, who moved to Erie county in an early day, where James was born September 3, 1827, and moved with his parents to



Mercer county in 1834. His father hired a man and team to bring them to Mercer county, but on arriving at the river Nile he became discouraged and would go no farther. Here they took passage on board of a schooner for Chicago, where they happened to meet with some farmers who had brought wheat from Putnam county. With some of these teams they were brought as far as Monmouth, where, after a few days' stay, they engaged a man and team to bring them to Millersburg. This was an eventful trip for the whole family. Shortly after leaving Monmouth their younger brother fell from the wagon in which they were riding and was instantly killed. On arriving at Millersburg they found an Indian camp all along Camp creek, which sight did not add much pleasure to their mother's anticipations of the new country. The Indians would come to their house in squads of twenty or more in quest of potatoes and such other provisions as they had to spare, never taking anything, however, without paying for it. They were treated kindly by the Lloyds, whom they duly appreciated. Mr. Lloyd's mother had been in Mercer county for nearly a year before she saw the face of a white woman. In 1860 Mr. Lloyd made a trip to Pike's Peak, and on this trip he met an old Indian who had many times been at his father's house while they were encamped at Millersburg. They both recognized each other at once. He was quite aged, but still remembered all that had transpired during their encampment at Camp creek, at which time Mr. Lloyd was but a small boy. Mr. Lloyd bought his first land on S. W. Sec. 32, in 1849, of Dr. Samuel West, who had bought the tax title. He did not settle until 1857. He remembers Capt. Kinkade and a party of twelve stopping at his father's house while on their way to Rock Island to make a treaty with Black Hawk. James Lloyd's ancestors on his mother's side were German. His mother died in 1879, at the age of eighty-one years. She will always be remembered by those who knew her on account of her generous hospitality.

EDWARD M. CASTLE was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, July 7, 1838. His grandparents were born in America. Luman Castle, his father, was born in Ontario county, New York, and his mother in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. His father came to Illinois in 1832, where he was married to Miss Catharine Murry, in Tazewell county, about 1837, and moved to Mercer county in 1842. He first settled one mile east of Millersburg, which place he sold to James Wharton, and moved to Nebraska, where his wife died in 1861. The subject of this sketch entered the service of the war of the rebellion as a private in company G., 27th Ill. Inf., and during the time which he served participated in all the battles in which his regiment was

engaged, Belmont being the first. He returned home after the war and bought land in section 5, which had been owned by one Hatch, of Ohio, and who had traded a hotel property for it. He also bought in section 8, which was formerly owned by Kendall, Specker, and Almgendinger, who had bought it of I. N. Bassett. Mr. Castle is well and favorably known throughout the section of country in which he lives, having taken an active part in the affairs of the township. He was several times chosen supervisor, assessor and collector. He is a prominent member of the Presbyterian church and a deacon of the same.

CALEB VERNON was born thirty miles from Cincinnati, Warren county, Ohio, in 1817, and when fourteen years of age moved with the family to Indiana, where he received a common school education and learned to farm. His father was born in England, and, while young, was left at home with his mother, while his father came to America, but after a few years took ship to return home. The vessel was wrecked and he was never after heard from. For the first few years after Mr. Vernon's arrival in Illinois he followed mining in the lead mines of Galena. He was married in St. Louis, July 6, 1847, to Miss Nancy Walston, whose mother was a native of Kentucky. Vernon's parents came to Illinois when he was but a small child, but he distinctly remembers the wilderness-like appearance of the country at that time. There were but a few houses then in the county. He once left Rock Island for Millersburg, at which time Daniel Montgomery's house was the only one between the two places. There he took dinner and started on his journey. Darkness overtook him, and when near Millersburg he lost himself on the hills of Camp creek. He became bewildered, and made several trips back and forth from Camp creek to Eliza. Wolves were plentiful at that time, and he remembers of them following him while plowing in the fields. He is engaged in farming a small fruit culture. His handsome residence is shaded by large trees of his own planting, consisting of chestnut, maple, elm, ash and beech.

JOSEPH ANDERSON was born September 13, 1845, his parents being William and Achsah Anderson. His grandparents, on his father's side, were Americans, and on his mother's side, German. The subject of the sketch is the youngest child of a family of four children, and the only son of the family. His oldest sister, Louvenia, married Walter Balfour, and resides in Pocahontas county, Iowa. Annie married Samuel Powell, a resident of Rock Island county. Emmaranda resides in that county, also. Joseph Anderson came with his parents to this county in 1857. Here he received the benefits of a common school



education, and was raised to farming, at which he was engaged until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted as a private in the 9th Iowa cavalry. He served only a few months with his regiment and was detached for special duty as a scout and dispatch carrier, at which duty he served three years, and was mustered out at Little Rock, Arkansas, after which he immediately returned home to resume farming and stock raising. He has never sought office, but has been several times elected to fill the various offices in his town, and in 1882 was chosen supervisor. When he first settled in the township he bought his first land of Jacob Almendinger, on the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 9. He resides, however, on section 4, land owned by his father-in-law, Mr. Isaac Robbins, whose daughter, Carrie, he married. Mr. Anderson is a republican, and a member of the Aledo masonic lodge.

MILTON BORUFF, son of Valentine and Louvina Boruff, was born in Eliza township in 1843. His father was born in Clay county, Tennessee, and moved from there to Monroe county, Indiana, and to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1846, settling first on Pope creek, and later moved to Eliza township, where he was married to Miss Louvina Epperly. Milton Boruff was educated at a common school in the township in which he was born, where he was also married in 1865 to Miss Emaline, daughter of Martin Bear. By this marriage, Mr. Boruff and wife have had six children born to them, all of whom are now living at home. Mr. Boruff bought his first land in section 31, in 1865, which he has largely improved by commodious residences and other fine buildings.

MICHAEL MARDOCK was born in Tennessee in 1813, and at the age of eight years moved with his parents to the state of Ohio, and from that state to Indiana. Here he received a liberal education and learned the carpenter trade, which he followed until his removal to this state. His first settlement was in Eliza township where he improved a farm and resided until his removal to section 6, Duncan township. He was joined in marriage in 1839 to Miss Nancy Miller, which happy union was blessed by the birth of five children. From humble beginnings, by industry and good management, Mr. Mardock has acquired a handsome estate which he lives to enjoy, as well as the respect of his friends about him. He is a democrat in politics, and an honored member of the masonic order.

MICHAEL MADER, son of Adam and Barbara Mader, was born in Germany in 1832. In his father's family were four boys, among whom Michael was the youngest. He came to America in 1859, in company with Michael Vater's family and sister. At this time our subject had barely enough money to pay his passage to New York and Chicago, where he borrowed six dollars of his friend Vater, to bring him to

Rock Island. Immediately after his arrival he sought and obtained employment as a farm hand, at which he worked faithfully for eight years, at which time he invested the money that he had saved in 160 acres of land in the northeast of section 11. He subsequently bought eighty acres more just across the road in section 2. He has made some handsome buildings upon his place, all of which he has done by hard labor and good cultivation. Mr. Mader is a social gentleman, free in his habits and opinions, and liberally supports the cause of education, good morals and public progress.

LEONARD GARBER was born in Baden, Germany, in 1832, a country which has furnished many of our most prosperous emigrants, as may be seen by viewing their handsome improved farms throughout the township and elsewhere within the borders of Mercer county. Mr. Garber came with his parents to this country at the age of fourteen. The family landed in New York, from which place they immediately proceeded to St. Louis, where for two years our subject worked by days' wages in a brick-yard. He managed to lay up some money in the hands of the company, but the firm failing he lost all. They then moved westward, locating in Rock Island county, near Illinois city, where his father bought a farm and where Mr. Garber spent his youth at work. He here received a liberal education. In 1856 he was married in Rock Island county to Miss Margaret Bower, of the same county. Soon after his marriage he began business for himself. He first bought land in Rock Island county, which in 1862 he sold to George Wise and moved to Mercer county, where he bought 120 acres of partly improved land in section 1. He next bought eighty acres adjoining, of Nicholas Leuze. He next bought eighty acres adjoining, of Owens Tolbert. This he afterward sold. He then bought eighty acres of Mr. Cline, and next 160 acres of William Neff, in section 14, and besides another thirty acres, making in all 470 acres. His farm is well improved and contains more barns and outbuildings than any other farm in the township. His farm is also well adapted to stock-raising, which business occupies his attention. His pleasant home is shaded by large trees of his own planting, and he lives in ease and pleasure among his family of five children: Barbara, Maggie, Emma, Sadie, and John.

GEORGE LEUZE was born in Baden, Germany, December 26, 1813. His parents were Peter and Margaret Leuze. His father was born on the river Rhine in the year the Russians crossed the river during the Napoleon war. In his father's family there were nine children, five boys and four girls. His father lived to the age of eighty-two and his mother eighty-five. Our subject was married in Germany, in 1841, to Miss Mary Ghist, by which marriage they had four children born to



them, two of whom are dead. John is superintending his father's farm and Nicholas resides in Rock Island county. In Germany our subject followed weaving in the winter and farming in the summer. He came to this country May 10, 1857, on board the *Palestina*, which took fire twice while on the way. During the voyage the provisions ran short, and they were three days without a morsel to eat. They landed in New York, and went direct from there to Rock Island, where he obtained work at fifty cents per day. He soon after bought 150 acres of land, where he now resides at an advanced age. Mr. Leuze stands high among the people of the neighborhood in which he lives as an honest, upright and free-spirited gentleman.

D. S. MAYHEW was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1834. He devoted the first years of his life after obtaining his majority to working on a farm. After leaving his father's house he moved to Washington county, where his parents had formerly resided. There he worked ten months on a farm. In 1856 he came to Mercer county, where he worked by the month, and afterward rented land for two years, after which he was married to Miss Betsie E. Cooper, daughter of Levi Cooper. They have had ten children born to them: Emma (who is now married to George Close, a farmer, residing near his father-in-law's place), Levi, Lester, George, Effie, Tunis, John, Alexander, Bertie, Ira, and Eddie. Mr. Mayhew began life empty handed, but by industry and good management had accumulated a capital of \$300, with which he made the first payment on 160 acres of choice land in section 15, which he bought in 1866. This he has improved with good fences and a commodious house and barn. His door-yard is shaded by large trees planted by his own hands. Mr. Mayhew's beginning in life, contrasted with the condition of his affairs twenty years later, when living in affluence and comfort, with a well stocked farm, is a striking illustration of the results of well directed energy.

FRED VOLKEL emigrated from Germany with his parents to America at the age of seven. The family first landed in New York, and after a short stay, they went to Ohio, and thence to Springfield, Illinois, in 1842, where he remained with his parents until 1845, when he moved to Mercer county. His father died at Johnstown, Ohio, in 1879, and his mother in 1842. Life had been a struggle with him from the first, and his only hopes of a more successful ending lay in his energy, and with this sole assurance he started out in life, after receiving his education in Ohio. Soon after his arrival in the county he purchased land in section 10 of James Hains, and in 1855 was married to Miss Nancy Jane Davis, of Rock Island county, by which union they had five children born to them. His wife died in 1864, and Mr. Volkel was

again married in 1867 to Mrs. Betty McDowell, and by this marriage they had five children. Mr. Volkel now owns an improved farm in Duncan township, and is in such circumstances as to enjoy life. He is a member of the Baptist church, and was among the first to organize that church at Antioch.

Among the many old settlers and prominent gentlemen of Mercer county, who have taken an active part in its development, we mention the name of WILLIAM RETHERFORD (deceased), who was born in the Monongahela river valley, in Pennsylvania. His estimable wife, a native of Botetourt county, Virginia, was born in 1813. Her parents moved to Indiana when she was fifteen years old. Here they were married in 1836 and came to Mercer county in 1838. They first rented land of William Drury for five years, when, by industry and economy, they managed to lay up some money with which they purchased land in section 14, which they improved and added to until the time of Mr. Retherford's death in 1881. He owned 960 acres, all well improved and under the highest state of cultivation. When he first arrived in the county his whole stock in trade consisted of a wagon, a team of horses and harness. Some of the land which he first bought at fifty cents per acre is now worth \$50. Mr. Retherford's family consisted of six children: Madison, Patrick, Sarah E., Delilah, Jane, and James Franklin, with John C., whom Mr. Retherford adopted. At the time of his death it was his request that John C. be an equal heir with his own children. Mr. Retherford was never a politician, but always held decided views upon the leading questions of the day. He was not a republican; but when the question of supporting the government came up as against the other issues of the rebellion, Mr. Retherford was on the side of the union with his money and influence to assist in filling up the quota of his town. His personal integrity and worth were always recognized by those who lived near and dealt with him. James Retherford, son of the subject, was married to Miss Sarah Collins, soon after which he bought land of his father's estate, upon which he now resides.

LEWIS LANDRETH was born in the State of Indiana in 1844. His father, Zachariah Landreth, was a native of Virginia, and his mother was born in North Carolina. They moved from that state to Indiana in an early day, where they were married and where our subject was born. Lewis came with his parents to Mercer county, Illinois, about 1832 and with his father first settled in Perryton township. His father and mother died there and were buried side by side at Millersburg. For many years previous to their death they had been devoted members of the Baptist church, and succeeded in raising their children to lives



of honesty, industry, and service for the Creator. Soon after our subject was first married he began farming on section 9, which was partly given to him by his father. This he sold, and bought the Martin Boyd place on section 16, which is finely improved, and where he now resides in peace and comfort.

NICHOLAS ADDIG, was born in Germany, in 1848, and is the youngest child of a family of five children. In 1854 he came to America with his parents, he being then five years old. The family landed in New York, and proceeded thence to Rock Island county, settling in the southwestern part of the county, in what is known as the German settlement. There his father bought and improved a farm, and our subject worked for his father until 1869, when he was joined in marriage to Miss Margaret Leonard. Soon after the union he moved on section 1 in Duncan township, where he remained for two years. Being ambitious to obtain more land he moved to Iowa, but not liking the country where he had settled, he returned after an absence of two years to Mercer county. Immediately after his arrival he purchased 160 acres of land of Mr. Conrad Leonard, in section 1, where has since resided. In 1874 he bought eighty acres of James A. Harris, and in 1881 bought an additional eighty acres of John Boltinghouse. All this he has highly improved, and at present writing is engaged in building one of the largest barns in the county. This barn is designed to contain all the modern improvements, and will be supplied with water by a hydraulic ram. From early childhood his life has been an active one, given almost wholly to the advancement of his business. One would scarcely believe, after admiring his fine farm, that he began empty-handed, yet such is his history. His happy home has been blessed with five girls, all of whom are living. His father was born in Germany in 1811, and his mother in 1812. Her maiden name was Mary Elizabeth Spangler. They are both living and quite active at the time we write.

J. H. COLLINS, farmer and fine stock raiser, was born in 1819, in Washington county, Ohio. There he received his education at Monroe academy after which he read law and was admitted to the bar, and for a short time practiced in that county. In 1849 he went to Texas, with a power of attorney by a decree of court, to sell some property which a party there was occupying and falsely owning. He had some difficulty in applying the law, and fell back upon his physical ability, and thus succeeded in accomplishing his object. After this he returned home, and in 1856 came to Illinois, where he staid one year. Coming again next year he began to improve his farm of one-half section of land. In 1858 he was married to Miss Emily Robin-

son, of Edgington, Rock Island county. When he first came to this county there were but few houses in the neighborhood, and until the fall of 1858, at the time the Antioch church was built, there had not been a school within five miles, and the country was all unimproved. In 1875 he built one of the finest houses in Duncan township. His father, a native of Pennsylvania, was of English descent, and his mother was born in Ireland. Mr. Collins possesses great determination of character, and indomitable energy and acute ideas. He is of ready and pleasing address, making the humblest feel at home in his house. He is a man who has never sought office, but served his town for twelve consecutive years as justice of the peace, the only office which he would accept.

JOSEPH C. GILMORE came to Mercer county in 1847, and with the exception of a few years spent in the lumber districts of the north, has resided in the county ever since. On his first arrival he made his residence in Perryton township, where he became acquainted with Miss Rebecca Blue, formerly of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and they were married in 1855. His ancestors originated in Wales. Mr. Gilmore is the son of Ephraim and Catharine Gilmore. His great-grandparents, on coming to this country in a very early day, settled on a farm in Chester county, Pennsylvania, where our subject was born and educated. In 1851 he bought his first land in section 35, Duncan township, principally for pasture, and did not improve it until 1857, since which he has built a large, commodious house and barn, and has turned his attention to the fine stock and cattle business. His home has been blessed by four children, of whom one is deceased. He has lived to see the country improved from its wild condition to its present high state of civilization. He has led a quiet and peaceful life of irreproachable honesty, and has never sought office, though often importuned. Politically he is a democrat, with which party he has always acted. Of Mr. Gilmore's father's family eleven children constituted the family circle, of whom nine are living. From the time of his removal to Duncan township, he has bought several tracts of land bordering on his original farm, until he now has 455 acres. Himself and family are members of the Presbyterian church of Millersburg.



## ABINGTON TOWNSHIP.

It would be difficult, indeed, to find a spot of earth where human feet have trod for nearly a half century, that has not been the scene of events worthy a place in history ; but it is often a difficult matter to glean such facts as are necessary to a correct record, from the filth and rubbish of tradition. The lack of correct data, owing to the treachery of human memory and a failure to make a correct record of the events as they transpired, make the accurate compilation of them a perplexing task. A few well substantiated facts are of more value in history than many pages of matter where a large draw on the imagination is indulged in and a mountain of fiction built on a mole-hill of fact. Desiring to be accurate we shall refrain from all superfluities and be brief, for this "soul of wit" is a jewel even in a historian.

Abington township is devoted almost wholly to grain production, though a number of persons residing in the township are extensive stock raisers. The soil is usually very fertile, and the industrious tillers of the soil reap where they sow ; and the vast fields are filled with an abundance that makes glad the heart of the husbandman.

The first settlement in the township was made in about 1832 or 1833, and among the first settlers were Joseph Glancey, William T. Jackson, John W. Ditto, Frederick Frick, and Thomas Greer. All these lived to a ripe age, and Mr. Ditto still survives. Joseph Glancey settled in Abington township in July, 1834. He broke the first land in the township on the place now known as the Gates farm.

The first school-house was built in the township about 1839, near the farm of William T. Jackson, and the first teacher was Miss Harriet Wilson, who afterward married Mr. Brooks Beeson. The school-house was a small structure, built of round logs and covered with clapboards, and contained a puncheon floor. Among the first school teachers who taught in the township were, Warren Shedd (afterward county treasurer of Mercer county, and but recently deceased); John Nevius, and Miss Lucy Wilson, now Mrs. T. B. Cabeen; but the exact date when these different pedagogues wielded the birch and taught the young frontiersmen the art of orthography and penmanship, and the science of mathematics, is a matter involved in a little doubt ; but the period when each of these educators plied their vocation in Abington township, was remote enough for them to enjoy the musical voice of the prowling wolf as he figured and schemed for a raid on the pigs and sheep of the farmers, on which to satiate his keen appetite. As "relentless time" has moved on, the fierce beasts of prey have fled before

the vast tide of emigration, and the painted savage has given up his cherished hunting grounds to the pale faces who have caused the wild prairies to bloom as an Eden; and we stop long enough in the rapid whirl of events to ask where those early school teachers and the children they taught are, as we make a record of those early events; and the answer is the only one we could expect. Some are resting in the quiet embrace of the tomb, while others are yet alive with the marks of time visibly and indelibly carved in every feature and movement.

Mr. John W. Ditto informs us that the first marriage of white people in Abington township was that of a couple on their way from Indiana to Iowa. The bride was a widowed daughter of a man who was moving with his family to the young hawkeye state; and the groom was a teamster of the father of the bride. The party halted for a few days in the timber that fringes Pope creek, and the lovers stood on the ice, while a justice of the peace, whose name is forgotten, legalized the contract, and for once, at least, there was love "on ice." The second marriage was probably that of Robert Pence and Eliza Glancey. In every state of society there seems to be a commingling of joy and sorrow; of pleasure and pain; of hopes realized and anticipations blasted. While singing and dancing speak the happiness of one, mourning tells of the sorrow of another.

Mrs. Mahala Willits and Mrs. Evaline C. Swafford, relate the following sad story: In 1835 Mr. William Jack and his wife and a son and daughter were moving from Fayette county, Indiana, to Mercer county, Illinois, by boat. When between Oquawka and New Boston, Mrs. Jack died of cholera. The stricken husband and children landed at New Boston, and the remains of Mrs. Jack were taken to the residence of John Denison (the only family living there at that time, we believe), and were buried where the New Boston cemetery now is; Mrs. Erastus Denison being the only person buried at the place previous to the interment of Mrs. Jack. The bereaved husband and two children went to the residence of Joseph Glancey, who then resided on what is known as the Davis farm, in New Boston township. At ten o'clock on the day following the burial of Mrs. Jack, the son (Samuel), took the cholera and died at four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, and was buried on the bluff where the Davis graveyard now is; he was the first person buried there. There were none to assist in the interment but Joseph Glancey, Achillis and Miles Drury. There was no coffin to be had nearer than from Monmouth, and Mr. Glancey and the Messrs. Drury made a rough box out of the wagon box in which Mr. Glancey and his family came to Illinois, and in that they put the remains and buried them. At this time, Mr. Glancey and the few



other persons in the neighborhood had to get their mail at Monmouth, and there were but one or two houses between Mr. Glancey's residence and Monmouth. It was one unbroken stretch of prairie for twenty-one miles on a "bee line."

The first bridge built across Pope creek was in 1837, a few rods below where Pope mill now stands. Mr. John Rumley had the contract, and Hon. Thomas B. Cabeen was the boss carpenter and builder. The hands at work on the bridge boarded at Mr. Rumley's, and Mrs. E. C. Swafford, then a girl of fifteen years, was one of the cooks.

The first saw mill in Abington township was built in 1838 or 1839, by Mr. Isaiah Brown, one mile and a half east of the Pope mill. William Willit, now of Keithsburg, ran the mill for a time and then purchased it.

Mrs. Evaline C. Swafford owned the first sewing machine that was in Mercer county. It was a Wheeler & Wilson, and was bought in Chicago in 1858, by Theodore Glancey, when he was on his way east to attend school in Jamestown, New York. The machine was a great curiosity in the community, and persons came for miles to see the wonder. Mrs. Swafford says the many questions asked about the machine were really amusing. The first postoffice was at the residence of Frederick Frick.

The following is a list of the citizens of Abington township elected to the office of justice of the peace, according to the record in the office of the county clerk at Aledo and the advice of old and well-informed residents: Frederick Frick, elected August 5, 1839, August 7, 1843, August 2, 1847; Orla C. Richardson, November 6, 1849; George Jay, November 6, 1849; S. G. Wright, April 6, 1858; Frederick Frick, April 6, 1858, April 1, 1862, April 3, 1866; William P. Strong, April 2, 1867; M. R. Gushee, April 5, 1870; William Willitt, April 7, 1874; Ernest J. Glancey, April 4, 1876; Lewis Sponsler, April 3, 1877; E. J. Glancey, April 3, 1877, April 5, 1881; John W. Landers, April 5, 1881.

Palestine church in Abington township was built in 1866 by the United Brethren denomination. Its original cost was about \$2,000. It was dedicated August 12, 1866, Rev. L. S. Chittenden preaching the dedicatory sermon. The building will seat about 300 persons. It is a substantial frame. The society has no great strength in the way of membership, but they maintain a Sunday-school, are out of debt, and have preaching every alternate Sunday. The clergymen who have served the society as pastors are: Revs. Elisha Godfrey, Benjamin Wagoner, O. F. Smith, John Wagoner, A. G. Smith, O. O. Smith, A. Worman, Adam Wolff, and the Revs. Davis, Pease, and Chelser, the given

names of the latter three gentlemen being forgotten. Some of the gentlemen named served the society only one year, while others remained on the charge two years in succession.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

JOSEPH GLANCEY was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, May 27, 1794. He learned the trade of carding machine building, and followed the trade for many years. He removed to Wayne county, Indiana, in 1820, and purchased a quarter section of heavy timber land and improved a large farm. He was married in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, March 18, 1818, to Rachel Snevly, by whom he had five children, two of whom are now living. The eldest is Mrs. Mahala Willits, widow of Brady Willits, Esq., who died in 1873. Mrs. Willits never married again. She was born December 29, 1818. The second child, Eliza, was born September 28, 1820, and married Robert Pence in 1840. The third child is Mrs. Evaline C. Swafford, who was born April 20, 1822, and was married to Mr. Joseph Swafford, March 19, 1844. Mrs. Swafford had the misfortune to lose her husband by death in seven months after their marriage, and being so soon called from the marriage feast to the house of mourning she has ever since her great misfortune remained a widow. Mr. Joseph Glancey, the principal subject of our sketch, was married four times. By the third wife he had seven children, three now living: Mrs. I. J. Mitchell, Mrs. Thomas J. Moffitt, and Ernest J. An account of the cruel murder of Theodore Glancey, together with his biographical sketch, will be found in the history of Keithsburg township in this volume. Mr. Joseph Glancey's fourth wife was Mrs. Martha Whitaker, widow of Mr. Marshall Whitaker, to whom he was married July 18, 1861. She is still living; and she, Mrs. Mahala Willits, Mrs. Evaline C. Swafford, and Ernest J. Glancey and his wife, all live on the old homestead in a fine, large residence, which shows how strong and bright is the golden chord of affection which binds some families together. Ernest J., the youngest child of Mr. Joseph Glancey, was born May 17, 1848, in Abington township, and has always resided within its borders. He received a common school education, and follows farming. He also owns a half interest in Pope mill, built by his father, on Pope creek. He is now holding his third term as justice of the peace. He was married October 31, 1878, to Miss Lillian C., daughter of Anderson and Mary J. (Willits) Kirlin. The Glanceys are all freethinkers, most of them of the spiritualistic type. They were among the first abolitionists of the country. The younger Glancey, Ernest J., states his creed to be as follows: The immediate payment of the national



debt; taxation of all church property, and the abolishment of all chaplaincies in the legislatures, army and navy and state prisons.

SAMUEL, son of Samuel and Mary Knisley, was born in Highland county, Ohio, February 9, 1827. His father's family removed from Ohio to Fountain county, Indiana, when Samuel was nine years old. He was married in 1852 to Minerva, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Seeders. They came to Mercer county, Illinois, soon after their marriage and settled in Abington township. They have had born to them nine children, five of whom are living: Henry, Emma M., Lee Roy, Elmer E., and Charles W. Mr. Knisley was one of the most successful farmers in his neighborhood, and was a good and well-esteemed citizen; but for several years he has been afflicted with hallucinations, which unfit him for business. While this misfortune is a sore affliction to the family, Mrs. Knisley and her two sons, Lee Roy and Elmer E., are keeping their beautiful home of 194 acres in excellent shape. Lee Roy received a common school education and attended the Bryant & Stratton Business College at Davenport, Iowa, one term. He had thought of engaging in mercantile business, but circumstances have led him to adopt agriculture as his chief work.

Among the early settlers of Abington township was the family of FREDERICK FRICK. They came from Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1838. Mr. Frick was elected a justice of the peace the year following his settlement in Abington township, and he was elected five times to the same position, being on his fifth term when he died. Mr. Frick was the first postmaster in Abington township, the office being located at the farm-house of Mr. Frick at the Bluff, five miles east of where Keithsburg is now situated. Mr. and Mrs. Frick had eight children: Sarah E. (Mrs. W. A. Willits), George A., Mary C. (Mrs. John E. Willits), Harriet W. (Mrs. James Noble), Rebecca N. (Mrs. Joshua Cabeen), Lucy J. (Mrs. Harvey N. Smith), William W., and Charles P. Mr. Frick died in 1866. George A., the second child, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, May 12, 1826. He came with his father's family to Mercer county, Illinois, and assisted his father in the work of farming, and has made agriculture his chief business. He was married, March 29, 1848, to Frances, daughter of William and Anna Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Frick have five children living, and one (Harry Norvell) deceased. The living are: Frederick W., Albert A., Warren T., Alice, and Homer W. Mr. Frick is a member of the I.O.O.F. He is a democrat politically, and an independent on questions of religion. Mr. Frick has served his township as supervisor three terms, held the office of township collector ten years, and that of town clerk two years. The handsome home of Mr. Frick is near

where his father's family first settled, and consists of 140 acres of land with the necessary appurtenances.

ANDREW J. DOUGLASS was born in Bath county, Virginia, May 18, 1825. He is the son of Andrew J. and Nancy A. (Fox) Douglass. When our subject was about ten years old his parents removed to Highland county, Ohio, where young Douglass grew to young manhood. He then turned his face westward and made his first halt in Edgar county, Illinois, where he remained one year, and then moved onward toward the setting sun. This move brought him to Mercer county where he has since resided, a period of nearly forty years. It may not be amiss here to mention that the lady who has been Mrs. Douglass for thirty-four years, came with her parents to Mercer county a year previous to Mr. Douglass' turning his steps westward; and when we call to mind the fact that an acquaintance had existed between the two parties in the state of Ohio, it is not difficult to divine the guiding star that directed the feet of Mr. Douglass to the vast, unbroken prairies of the "Far West." Mr. Douglass came west without any capital, save his willing hands and unimpeachable character, and for a number of years he occupied only rented land. He then purchased the place on which he now lives and improved it; and he now has a grand farm of 500 acres under a good state of cultivation, well supplied with good buildings of every sort demanded on a farm, and well stocked with cattle, horses, etc. Mr. Douglass has a passion for fine horses, and he can boast of some fine specimens in this line. Mr. Douglas was married April 6, 1848, to Mary J. McIntire, daughter of John and Elizabeth McIntire. Mr. and Mrs. Douglass have been blessed with eight children: Frances E., Mary E., William R., George R., Isaiah H., Charles I., Mina I., and Andrew J. Frances E., the eldest, was married to George W. Braucht, March 21, 1867, and died July 21, 1869, leaving an infant son, Frederick E.; Mary E. is married to James M. Greer.; William R., to Mary E. Walker, and Isaiah H., to Ida M. Jones. Mr. Douglass is a greenbacker, politically. He and Mrs. Douglass are Sabbatarians, or Seventh Day Adventists.

WILLIAM RILEY MAIN was born in Crawford county, Indiana, September 3, 1835. He is the son of Riley and Martha Main. He received a fair common school education in the schools of Indiana and Illinois. He came with his father's family to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1852. He was married October 15, 1857, to Sarah M. Fleming. Eleven children have been born to them: Floyd, Olive E., Cora M., John T., Walker B., Alta I., George S., Maud E., Lulu J., Oscar R., and Orin W. Mr. Main is a farmer and stock-raiser, and owns one of the many beautiful farms that "blossom as the rose" in western Illi-



nois. His farm consists of 500 acres under a good state of cultivation. He has good buildings on his place. He pays a good deal of attention to heavy stock business. Mr. and Mrs. Main are members of the United Brethren church. Politically Mr. Main is a republican. Mr. Main and his family are blessed with an abundance of the world's comforts ; or, in other words, are in excellent circumstances.

MINERVA A. GREER was born in Wayne county, Indiana, December 29, 1829. She is the daughter of Reuben and Mary (Harris) Willits. Her parents both died in the spring of 1834, of milk sickness ; the mother dying in the evening and the father the following morning. Mrs. Greer came to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1836, with her uncle, Thomas Moore, who settled in New Boston township. The subject of our sketch was married April 15, 1847, to Thomas Greer, a farmer. There were fourteen children born to them : Reuben H., James M., Mary J., Thomas F., Alice A., John E., Samuel I., Arthur, Lewis W., Albert C., Ella F., Dora E., Robert F., and a daughter who died when an infant and before she was named. Three of the other children are dead : Arthur, Dora E., and Lewis. Thomas Greer, the husband of our immediate subject, was born June 10, 1818, in the state of Ohio. He removed to Mercer county, Illinois, as early as 1836, and settled in Abington township, where he resided until his death. He devoted his time to farming and stock raising, and by industry and economy accumulated a large amount of property. Since the death of the husband and father, the property has been divided among the heirs, Mrs. Greer retaining the homestead, which consists of 200 acres of land under a good state of cultivation with good buildings and all the necessary improvements to a complete country home. Seven of the children are married and all living within a radius of two and a half miles of the old homestead. Mrs. Greer is a Seventh Day Adventist.

SAMUEL POLLOCK was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, April 26, 1823. He is the son of Samuel and Margaret (Caldwell) Pollock. Our subject removed to Peoria county, Illinois, in 1852, and removed to Abington township, Mercer county, Illinois, October, 1854, and settled on the farm on which he now resides. He has a farm of 600 acres all improved, with good buildings and other modern improvements. Mr. Pollock is an extensive dealer in stock, especially in cattle. Mr. Pollock's success in life is an index to what industry, economy and genuine pluck will do. He started out in life a poor boy, and now stands in the front rank as a business man and an honorable gentleman. Mr. Pollock was married February 23, 1863, to Mary A. Kinney. They have three children : John K., Maggie A., and Mary I. Mr. Pollock is a member of the old school Presbyterian church. Politically he is a republican.



JOSEPH GLANCY.

(DECEASED)





JOHN W. LANDERS was born in Fountain county, Indiana, January 3, 1830. He is the son of Robert H. and Hannah (Stewart) Landers. Mr. Landers learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner and worked at the business for seven years. At the end of that period he engaged in farming and has made it the main business of his life. He was married March 24, 1853, to Miss Mary, daughter of Emanuel and Frances Humbert. They removed from Indiana to Mercer county, Illinois, in October, 1857, and settled in Abington township. In 1874 they removed to Pottawattamie county, Iowa, where they remained for three years, they then returned to Mercer county, and again became citizens of Abington township. They have had seven children, four of whom are living. They are: James R., William H., Charlie B., and Mary E. Mr. Landers was formerly a democrat, but of late years he has been an active, aggressive greenbacker. He has held some minor offices, and at present is a justice of the peace. Religiously he is a liberal. The family have recently sustained a severe loss by the burning of their residence, which was a substantial brick.

JAMES KELLOGG, son of David and Ruth (Miller) Kellogg, was born in Granville, Hampden county, Massachusetts, August 12, 1819. His father's family removed from Massachusetts to Portage county, Ohio, when the subject of this sketch was ten years old. After a residence of nine years in Ohio the family removed to Crawford county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Kellogg was married in 1846 to Martha A., daughter of James and Orpha (Alexander) Lafferty. Mr. Kellogg removed with his family to Mercer county, Illinois, in the fall of 1852, and settled on section 27, in Ohio Grove township, where they remained until 1867, when they removed to Abington township and settled on the farm on which they now reside. Mr. Kellogg owns an excellent farm of 160 acres, well supplied with living water, and it is in every way a well arranged home, being supplied with good out-buildings, groves and shrubbery; and their residence is one of the very best. Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg have had five children, three of them now living: James A., Mary M., and William E. Mr. Kellogg was formerly a whig, and when that party died he became a democrat; but of late years he has been an enthusiastic greenbacker. Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg are both Presbyterians. William E., the youngest son, has a good farm of eighty acres, but being yet in the enjoyment of single blessedness, makes his home under the paternal roof. He received a common school education only, but enjoys some reputation as a newspaper writer, confining himself in this direction mostly to the local press. He is an Odd-Fellow, and a greenbacker.

WESLEY HENRY, the son of Henry A. and Catharine (Shurtz)



Henry, was born August 23, 1845, in Hunterdon county, New Jersey. He came to Mercer county, Illinois, with his father's family when he was six years of age, and has been a resident of Abington most of the time since he came to Illinois. He makes farming his business, and has no other thought than to earn his bread by honest toil. He was married, September 11, 1873, to Lucetta, daughter of William and Margaret Stephenson. They have four children: William A., Margaret C., George S., and Orville S. Mr. Henry is a democrat, and says it was born and bred in him.

JOHN W. DITTO, farmer and stock raiser, is the son of Andrew and Margaret (Wyland) Ditto, and was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, June 25, 1815. His father removed with his family to Shelby county, Ohio, when John was a babe, where he was reared to the age of near twenty years, when he came to Mercer county, Illinois, making the entire trip alone on horseback. He rode a thoroughbred horse and led a fine mare. He rode many miles without seeing a living soul, and the great prairies stretched out all around him like a great plain unknown except to the savage and beasts of prey. When Mr. Ditto reached Mercer county he settled in New Boston township, on government land. He settled in Abington township, in the spring of 1838, on the farm where he now lives in section 13. Mr. Ditto carried the mail two winters from Monmouth to New Boston and Rock Island. He can relate some incidents of the early settlement of the country that are both painful and amusing. Mr. Ditto has the oldest deed in Mercer county. He was married, November 17, 1842, in Knox county, Illinois, to Elizabeth, daughter of Henry and Margaret Redman. They had ten children: Mary D., James W., Henry R., John W., Ellen A., Andrew M., Benjamin F., Samuel D., Margaret E., and Mack. Mary D., the first born, was burned to death when she was three months old. The mother tied the child in a high chair, and while she was busy outside the room, the child slipped out of the chair into the fire and was burned to death. James D., the second child, was killed in the battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi, May 23, 1863. Ellen A., the fifth child, was married to John H. Farber, and died July 11, 1878, in Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, leaving two children: John W. and Arthur. Mrs. Ditto died March 9, 1873, and Mr. Ditto was again married, November 11, 1873, to Mrs. Olive Crook, widow of Galen Crook. Mr. Ditto has a farm of 479 acres in Abington township, and he also owns 847 acres of cheaper pasture lands in Henderson county. He pays a great deal of attention to sheep husbandry, and has at present almost a thousand head of sheep. Mr. Ditto belongs to the Advent or Sabbatarian church. He formerly

mustered with the democrats, but for several years past he has been an unflinching greenbacker.

WILLIAM M. WILLITS, farmer, son of John and Sarah (Campbell) Willits, was born December 4, 1835, in New Boston township, Mercer county, Illinois. When he was two years old his father's family settled in Abington township, where the subject of our sketch has since resided. Mr. Willits has a good farm of eighty acres in a good state of cultivation. He served as a union soldier in the 30th Reg. Ill. Inf., as a corporal. Indorsed on his discharge is the following splendid record as a soldier: "Said soldier was engaged in the following battles: Fort Donelson, Tennessee, February 15, 1862; Britton's Lane, Tennessee, September 1, 1862; Raymond, Mississippi, May 12, 1863; Champion Hill, Mississippi, May 16, 1863; took an active part in the siege of Vicksburg; was in the battle of Kenesaw mountain, June 27, 1864; battle near Atlanta, Georgia, July 22, 1864, and took an active part in the Georgia campaigns, resulting in the capture of Savannah, and has done duty up to the present time; and he is highly esteemed in his company and regiment as a gentleman and soldier. John P. Davis, capt. commanding 30th Ill. Inf." Mr. Willits was married February 12, 1872, to Frances J. daughter of James and Martha (McEachron) Gilchrist. They have three children: Mary E., John E., and Lena M. Mr. Willits was formerly a democrat, but of late years has acted with the greenback party.

MILTON M. JONES is the son of Franklin and Elizabeth (Farwell) Jones. He was born in Preemption township, Mercer county, Illinois, September 27, 1844. When he was ten years of age his father's family removed to Abington township. Milton spent his boyhood days on the farm and in the country school-house. In the winter of 1868-9 he graduated at the Western Business College, of Galesburg, Illinois. Soon after his college course he was engaged as a salesman in a large retail grocery store, but at the end of a year he went to farming and stock-raising. He has a good farm of 120 acres, and has paid special attention to the breeding of high-class hogs, in which business he has been very successful. He was married September 22, 1870, to Miss Sarah E. daughter of John and Sarah (Campbell) Willits. They have one child, Milton Willits. Mr. Jones has held the office of town clerk two terms. He is a member of the Christian (Campbellite) church. Politically he is a republican. He served six months as a soldier, in the 140th reg. Ill. Vol. He received three wounds in engagements; one severe one in the shoulder, for which he gets a small pension.

DUNCAN SEATON was born in Perthshire, Scotland, October, 1823.



He is the son of John and Isabel (McDonald) Seaton. He received a common school education, and came to the United States of America in 1843. He sailed on the ship *Luconia*, and on reaching America settled in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, where he remained about two years. From there he came to Mercer county, Illinois, and remained three years, when he took a trip to California by overland with an ox-team. After an absence of about two years he returned to Illinois, and settled in Abington township, Mercer county, where he now resides on a beautiful farm of 230 acres. Mr. Seaton was married in 1860 to Miss Martha E., daughter of Samuel and Rebecca (Bogle) Criswell. They have had twelve children, five of whom are deceased. The living are : Mary, David, Margaret E., Ann, Martha L., Harry, and Angus. Mr. Seaton is a member of the old school Presbyterian church. He is a greenbacker politically.

JAMES VANCE, farmer, son of William and Rachel Vance, was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, February 15, 1825. He removed with his father's family to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1833, and settled in Keithsburg township, where the village of Keithsburg now stands. After remaining here one year the family removed to Rock Island county, Illinois, and at the end of a twelve-month returned to Keithsburg township, where they made farming their business. In 1847 the subject of this sketch was married to Sarah, daughter of Mark L. and Mary (Steward) Pearson. Mr. Vance removed with his wife soon after their marriage to Davis county, Iowa, where they remained six years. They then removed to New Boston township, Mercer county, Illinois, where they resided three years. From there they went to Abington township, where Mr. Vance bought the farm on which they now live. The farm contains 170 acres of excellent land, and Mr. Vance and his family of boys have devoted most of their time to tilling the soil. Mr. and Mrs. Vance have had born to them twelve children: William R., Robert L., Josiah W., Elijah A., Nerva A., John W., Marion E., Gershan H., James B., Forbes N., Mary V., and Martha E.; the latter deceased. Politically Mr. Vance is a greenbacker, and religiously he is a moralist. Of late years he has had rather poor health, and took a trip last summer to California, Oregon and some of the western territories, from which he received much benefit. Mr. Vance can relate many incidents in the early settlement of the country of much interest. He saw the distinguished Indian chief, Black Hawk, and six hundred of his dusky warriors.

JOHN J. SEATON was born in Perthshire, Scotland, February 6, 1831. He is the son of John and Christian Seaton. He came to the United States of America in 1843, going by steamship from Glasgow

to Liverpool, and sailed from the latter place to New York in the ship *Luconia*. He settled in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, and remained there until 1845, when he removed to Mercer county, Illinois, and has lived here most of the time since. He received a common school education in Scotland and America. In 1854 he located in Abington township, where he now owns 350 acres of excellent agricultural land under a good state of cultivation, with good buildings and all necessary appurtenances to a complete rural home. He was married November, 1855, to Elizabeth, daughter of Robert and May (Douglass) Seaton. They have had nine children, five of whom are dead. The living are: Margery, John H., George D., and Lizzie. Their daughter, Christie Ann, who is among the deceased, was married to Mr. George Sponsler, and died at the age of about twenty-three years, leaving one child. Mr. Seaton is a republican, and a member of the old school Presbyterian church.

JOHN HENRY, farmer, was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, May 3, 1840. He is the son of Henry A. and Catherine A. (Shurtz) Henry. His father's family removed from Hunterdon county to Warren county, New Jersey, when John was a small boy, and in 1851 the family came to Mercer county, Illinois, and settled in Ohio Grove township where they remained four years, and then removed to Abington township. In October, 1870, John was married to Martha E., daughter of John B. and Mary (May) Jameson. They have six children: Mina, Charles, Frank B., Bessie, Lois, and Byrtel Eugene. Mr. Henry has a well cultivated farm of ninety acres, and confines himself almost exclusively to grain raising. He has just entered on his fourth term as road commissioner, and has held other township offices. Mr. Henry enlisted in the union army as a private soldier, August, 1862, and served in company G, 102d Ill. Vol., until the following January, when he was discharged because of disability. Mr. Henry is a democrat.

HON. ROBERT J. CABEEN, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Wright) Cabeen, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, April 25, 1822. He removed with his father's family from Ohio to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1836. The family settled in Ohio Grove township, and in 1850 Robert went to California, where he remained two years and then returned to Mercer county. He was married April 22, 1859, to Miss Mary E., daughter of Joseph and Violet (Scott) Pinkerton. After his marriage, Mr. Cabeen settled in Abington township, where he now resides. He has a farm of 575 acres of magnificent land in one body and ninety-five acres in another piece. His home place is under a high state of cultivation and his residence is one of the largest and most costly in the



county, which is furnished in a complete style, making a country home of a most charming character. Mr. Cabeen is an extensive stock raiser, and ships a great many cattle to Chicago. He held the office of township supervisor for ten years and served as a member of the State Board of equalization one term. Mr. and Mrs. Cabeen have had eight children. Samuel (deceased), Joseph, McClellan, Mary, Violet, Hattie E., Robert J. (centennial son), and Edith May. Politically Mr. Cabeen was formerly a democrat, but for a good many years he has been an active member of the greenback party. Religiously he is a liberal or freethinker.

W. A. WINCHESTER, farmer, was born in Genesee county, New York, January 2, 1824. His father's family removed to Geauga county, Ohio, when the subject of our sketch was seven years old. In 1849, Mr. Winchester settled in Adams county, Illinois, where he followed teaching school and farming for fourteen years, when he removed to Mercer county, Illinois, and settled in Abington township, on the farm where he now resides, which embraces 300 acres of excellent land. Mr. Winchester has fine buildings on his farm, and raises a great deal of stock. He is a model farmer, and while he is very retiring in his nature, his popularity among his neighbors has forced him to serve them in the capacity of supervisor for four terms in succession. May 29, 1866, he was married to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of William and Eliza Musser, of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania. They have no children. Religiously Mr. Winchester is a freethinker. Politically he is a greenbacker.

THOMAS WHITEHALL was born in North Carolina, July 31, 1828. He is the son of A. L. and Elizabeth Whitehall. His father removed with his family to Fountain county, Indiana, in 1832. In 1850 Mr. Whitehall was married to Nancy, daughter of William and Sarah Stephens. He removed to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1856, and settled in Abington township. In 1865 he removed with his family to Fountain county, Indiana, and remained there until 1871, when they returned to Illinois and located in Mercer county again. Their home is now in Abington township and consists of a pretty farm of 160 acres, with most all the appurtenances necessary to a desirable country home. Mr. and Mrs. Whitehall have had nine children, all living but Alice O., their youngest, who departed this life when quite young. Their living are: Alva A., Phebe E., William L., Mary E. and Sarah E. (twins), James M., Newton, Fruzy U., and Martha A. Mr. Whitehall is a greenbacher politically, and is what might be termed an independent thinker on almost every subject. He has his own peculiar notions on the subjects of medicine, religion, science, etc.

LEWIS F. OGLE is the son of James C. and Elizabeth (Smith) Ogle. He was born in Fountain county, Indiana, in 1849. His father's family removed from Indiana to Illinois about 1853. They settled in Mercer county, and gave their attention to farming. When Lewis F., or "Frank," as he is familiarly called, grew to manhood, he continued to make agricultural pursuits his chief business, and he now owns a good farm of 182 acres within four miles of Keithsburg. He was married November 2, 1879, to Miss Izziedora, daughter of Levi and Mary J. (James) Hall. They have had but one child, Eddie, whom they had the misfortune to lose by death while he was yet a babe. Mr. Ogle is republican, politically, and is independent in his religious views.

LEWIS WALDO BREWER, is the son of Gilbert and Elizabeth (Mills) Brewer. He was born August 28, 1834, in Wayne county, Indiana. When our subject was two years old his father moved with his family to Mercer county, Illinois. He received a common school education, and then learned the milling business, and has been engaged in the work for twenty-eight years. He owns a half interest in Pope mill, situated on Pope creek, five miles northeast of Keithsburg, where he resides and conducts the business of custom milling almost exclusively. Mr. Brewer was married in 1857 to Miss Mary Huff. One child was born to them. Mrs. Brewer died in 1860. The child is also deceased. Mr. Brewer was again married May 23, 1866, to Rosetta, daughter of Homer and Lucia Beemer. They have had seven children, three of whom are deceased. The living are : Amanda, Fred and Ida (twins), and Walter. Mr. Brewer belongs to the masonic order, and he and his wife both belong to the Eastern Star chapter. Politically Mr. Brewer is a republican. His views on religious matters are of the liberal type. It would make no difference what views he might entertain; all who know him would be quick to admit the fact that "Wall" Brewer is strictly conscientious, both in his religion and his politics.

MRS. SARAH G. WILLITS, generally known as "Aunt Sally Willits," was born in Pennsylvania, in September, 1810. She is the daughter of John and Polly (Blue) Campbell. Her parents died when she was quite young, and she went with a sister to Wayne county, Indiana, from Lebanon, Ohio, about 1825, having gone to the latter place when six years of age. She was married in 1830 to John Willits, and they removed to Mercer county, Illinois, about 1834, and settled in Abington township. Mrs. Willits received but a limited education, and when she went to school the principal text-books were the spelling-book and the New Testament. Her husband was quite an extensive land-owner and stock-breeder and dealer. He died in 1864. They had



nine children: Josiah G., Eliza E., James W., and Martha G., are deceased. The living are: Mary J., William N., Linnaeus H., Thomas W. and Sarah E. Thomas W., who occupies the mother's part of the estate, and with whom she makes her home a majority of the time, was born in Abington township, April 7, 1847, where he still resides. His youth was spent on the farm with his parents, and he could only avail himself of a common school education. Like the sons and daughters of most pioneers, he learned more of hard, physical toil than of science and art; he was more familiar with the field and the wild prairies than with school-houses and art galleries. Mr. Wilits was united in marriage February 13, 1873, to Miss Alice Main. They had one child, Carrie E. Mr. W. is a greenbacker, politically.

JASPER OGLE was born in Adams county, Ohio, January 12, 1834. He is a son of James C. and Elizabeth Ogle. The family removed from Ohio to Fountain county, Indiana, when Jasper was six months old. In 1853 the family removed to Mercer county, Illinois. Our subject was married February 22, 1855, to Miss Angeline, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Allison. They had seven children, all of whom are living. They are: Lena L., James E., Van, Mary E., Allie, Emma E. and Clarence E. Mr. Ogle removed to California in 1860, and remained there until 1870. While in the "golden state" he followed farming. He returned to Illinois only to continue his chosen occupation. He owns nearly 500 acres of land and has a very fine rural home. Mr. Ogle had the misfortune to lose his wife January 31, 1879. Politically Mr. Ogle is a republican, and religiously he is an Adventist or Sabbatarian. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows. He has traveled over the entire length of the great Union Pacific railroad five times.

JOSEPH D. OGLE, farmer, is the son of James C. and Elizabeth Ogle, and was born in Fountain county, Indiana, November 28, 1850. When Joseph was but three years old the family came to Mercer county, Illinois. He was married December 23, 1875, to Miss Kate C., daughter of Jacob and Catharine Elrick. They have two children: Van L. and Lela Fay. Mr. Ogle devotes his time wholly to agriculture. He owns a beautiful farm of 216 acres, on which are good buildings. Politically he is a pronounced republican, and thinks some remarkable change will have to come over the spirit of his dream if he is ever anything else in the way of politics.

WARREN B. MCCLURE was born in Meigs county, Ohio, November 5, 1848. He is the son of James and Jane (Ogle) McClure. He received a common school education, and on March 27, 1864, enlisted as a private soldier in the 13th Ohio cavalry, and served until the close

of the war. He was in several engagements and came out of them all unscathed. At the close of the war he returned to his home in Ohio where he remained until 1868, when he went to Clarke county, Missouri. He came from Missouri to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1871, and settled in Abington township, where he now lives, in 1876. He was married September 29, 1875, to Miss Leanna, daughter of Solomon and Evaline (Marlatt) Wolfe. Mr. and Mrs. McClure have three children: Clyde, Lula B., and Rose. Mr. McClure was formerly a republican, but has been for a number of years an aggressive greenbacker. He is at present township assessor, being on his second term, and has served one term as township collector. He has an excellent farm and gives most of his attention to agriculture, just mixing enough in politics to give farm life a respectable seasoning.

The life of JOHN V. BULLOCK reminds us that people are prone to look upon stately mansions as the abodes of happiness because such homes indicate wealth and luxury. But alas! how often is contention, discontent and unhappiness found within those stately walls. On the other hand happiness supreme often reigns in the cabin and in the cottage. A snug cottage, nestled among evergreens, maples and beautiful flowers is an inviting rural retreat, where the happy birds make melody sweet, and the new-made hay perfumes the air like an incense; where the green corn rustles in the breeze like the whisper of fairies, and the crystal dewdrops glisten in the sun like costly pearls, is a home to be envied by the tired, over-tasked millionaire. Such an inviting place as this is the home of Mr. and Mrs. John V. Bullock. Mr. Bullock was born in Crawford county, Indiana, November 17, 1840, and came to Mercer county, Illinois, as early as 1852, with his father's family. He was married December 29, 1868. Mr. and Mrs. Bullock have three children. Their names are: William C., Guy B., and Earl R. This makes a complete picture in the mind of every one who, in the great race of life believes in the pursuit of legitimate happiness. A lovely country home, a devoted wife, and three promising children! What more could be desired.

DR. JACOB RUSSELL BAKER, of Keithsburg, to whom we are indebted for notes on Abington township, and other valuable information, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, March 19, 1840, and is the son of Henry D. and Eve (Switzer) Baker. He removed to Kosciusko county, Indiana, in 1857, and studied medicine with Dr. T. Davenport, of Warsaw, Indiana. He practiced ten years, but, disliking the profession, and the exposure necessary in its practice disagreeing with his health, he abandoned it. He was born and reared a Methodist and for several years was a member of that denomination and was a class-



leader of the society. He contemplated entering the ministry of that denomination; but some of the tenets of orthodoxy seeming unreasonable, after careful thought and study on the question, he became a Universalist and entered the ministry of that denomination. He preached one year at Kirksville, Missouri, and two years in Clarinda, Iowa. The more he investigated the subject the more skeptical he became, and, at the end of his three years as a Universalist preacher, became a pronounced freethinker and left the pulpit forever. He believes all religions man-made, and that of humanity the only true religion. Since leaving the pulpit he has often lectured on the free-thought platform. He was married March 26, 1865, to Barbara Nolin, of Leesburg, Indiana. His wife died September 24, 1872. He had no children by his first wife. He was married again January, 1874, to Ella L. Lawton, of South Whitley, Indiana. They have three children: Bessie S., Estelle R., and Ralph Ingersoll. He is an enthusiastic apiarist, and devotes much of his time to agriculture. He writes regularly for several papers and magazines on different rural topics, especially on bees and fine poultry, and pet stock fancy; also on religious topics. He is a political stump speaker; in politics a greenbacker, and takes active part on the "stump" in every political campaign. Dr. Baker has gained considerable reputation as an orator in this county where he has resided for the past six years. From an oration delivered at Keithsburg on the death of General Garfield, we have room for but a few extracts. He said: "The humblest individual in our country has the same indisputable right to call to account a public servant, or a candidate for the post of duty and honor, or to apply a critical test to questions of right and wrong, as has the most favored and exalted citizen of our republic. The American people well understand that a liberty less great than this would be an infringement upon a fundamental principle of popular government. Our motto is: Let truth and falsehood grapple; let error and right contend, for we do injustice to right and truth if we doubt their ability to cope with their enemies." . . . In closing he said: "To say that Gen. Garfield possessed no faults, that he committed no errors, would be to say that he was more than human. But whatever his faults may have been in life, we will bury them with his body in death. Whatever errors he may have committed in his busy life, as a citizen, a soldier and a statesman, we freely forgive and forget; and with bowed head and aching hearts, consign his mortal remains to their narrow house in the city of the dead. And while all that is mortal of the distinguished soldier and statesman will crumble back to dust, his noble deeds as a son, a husband, a father, a teacher, a warrior and a statesman will live forever.

And now, that life's flitting dream is gone forever from our honored president, we will write his name in golden characters, as indelible as the fixed stars in the blue canopy above us, by the side of that of the immortal Washington, the great Jefferson, the hero Jackson, the martyr Lincoln, the patriot Douglass, the philanthropist Greeley, and the noble, scholarly Sumner. And when the people of the American republic shall so far forget the principles of justice and republican government as to cease to love and reverence these illustrious dead, let the sun hide his burning face; the pale moon cease to kiss the earth with her soft, golden beams; the stars fall from their places, and all the elements clash to one common center."

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### MERCER TOWNSHIP.

Mercer township includes all the congressional township known as 14 N., R. 3 west of the 4th P. M. The soil is generally black and rich, with some clay along the brakes and water courses. It is well watered, Edwards river traversing the north tier of sections, from east to west, and Pope creek crossing the southeast corner and following west near the south line, in Ohio Grove township. These, with their numerous runs, as feeders, furnish an ample supply of water for stock and irrigation. Along the creeks the land is broken, but there is very little so steep that it cannot be cultivated. On the "divide," as it is called, between Pope and Edwards, the land is level, and until brought under cultivation, much of it was of a swampy nature. Over this prairie in early times there was scarcely a track that rose to the dignity of a road, as travel was not frequent enough to keep down the luxuriant growth of grass, which often grew so high that a man on horseback could see but a short distance. Woe then to the luckless traveler who undertook to cross the prairie in a wet time with wagon and team. Suddenly his oxen would sink in the mud, knee deep, the wagon go down to the hub, and there was nothing to do but to unload, and then perhaps "double teams," if perchance there was some one to double with, or if not, go two or three miles to secure assistance. But cultivation and judicious draining have so changed the nature of the soil in this respect that it is difficult to convince our farmer boys of to-day that the most productive parts of their farms were at one time little better than impassable swamps.

Much of the township is underlaid with coal of a good quality, but there have, as yet, been but few banks opened, as it generally lies too deep to work with profit. Banks in the northeast part of the township



have been run for many years, but seldom at a great profit. Within a few years mines have been opened near Aledo and are still run on a small scale.

The water courses are lined with timber, oak, hickory, elm, maple, and linn predominating, while hazel covers the hill sides, and willows are plenty near the water. There are a few walnut trees, of good size and quality, and also some ash and hackberry, with perhaps a few other kinds. Wild plums, wild cherries, crab-apples and blackberries formerly grew in abundance, but with the exception of the two latter, they are now rare. Strawberries were also plenty on the uplands.

In the days of the first settlers deer were plenty on these prairies, as were also the prairie wolf, whose wild howlings are still among the most vivid, if not the most pleasing, recollections of the pioneers. Game of other kinds also abounded, and the early settlers dined sumptuously on wild turkey, prairie chicken, venison, rabbit, duck or goose, according to the season.

Prairie fires were of yearly occurrence. The luxuriant growth of grass, scorched by the summer's heat, by early fall was as dry as tinder, and a spark from a careless hunter's pipe, or sometimes the wad from his gun would start a conflagration which soon became at once grand and terrible. None who have once seen it can ever forget the majestic sweep of the wall of fire as it sped before the ever increasing wind, stretching out its arms farther and farther on either side, rivaling in speed the horse or deer, and gathering up and devouring all within its reach. Such was the prairie fire of early days, and fortunate was it for him who, caught in the track of the fast-coming flames, understood the pioneer's way of fighting fire with fire. Without this knowledge a severe scorching, if nothing worse, most surely awaited him.

The first entry of land made in the township was on August 21, 1837, when John and Abraham Miller entered the northeast quarter of section 4. In this and the two following years, the Miller family entered over 800 acres of land in sections 3, 4, and 16. They were the first settlers in the township; but as a full history of the family, and their coming to, and making a home in, Sugar Grove is given in connection with the history of Perryton township, we will not repeat it here, merely noting that they built the first mill and the first school-house in this township. Most of the land in this township lies in what is known as the "military tract," and was patented in 1818. A portion of the lands entered by the Millers were school lands, and were patented to them by the governor of Illinois, who also issued a patent to Benjamin Clark, to the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 16, on September 4, 1837.

Sugar Grove is situated on the north of Edwards river, including in its limits parts of sections 3, 4, 9, and 10. It received its name from the large number of sugar maple trees there growing, from which, until very recently, large quantities of maple sugar were manufactured yearly ; but at present the quantity is very small. It obtained a wide celebrity in early times as the place for holding the yearly camp-meetings of the Methodist church for the district then known as the Rock River district, embracing, we believe, full half the state. Here gathered, each succeeding fall, the hardy pioneers, coming fifty, and even one hundred, miles to spend a week or more in their chosen mode of worship. Here they would listen to the soul-stirring appeals of Giddings, Cartwright, Haney, Morey, Doughty, and the many others whose memory is revered by hundreds still living. When the first camp-meeting was held here we cannot definitely state ; certainly as early as 1845, and we think before that, and they were only discontinued in 1873, when the district, now less than one-fourth as large as then, purchased grounds of its own in Rock Island county. The grounds, however, are still occasionally used, the primitive Methodists and the Seventh Day Baptists having each held one or more meetings there within the past few years ; but as a “permanent campground,” their glory has departed.

Early in 1837 Messrs. Benj. Clark, John J. Charles, Timothy Condit, and William Mackey conceived the idea that a town should be built near the centre of the county, and they accordingly employed Judge E. Gilmore, then county surveyor, to make the plat. The judge left New Boston, with his instruments and assistants, and on foot they wended their way for fifteen long miles eastward, the day being bright and warm. Unfortunately a storm came up in the night, the thermometer rapidly fell, and the next morning broke clear and cold, with the ground covered with snow. The chain-bearers refused to work, and the judge, facing a cold west wind, made his way back to New Boston, arriving worn out and chilled to the bone, the trip resulting in a serious illness. A second attempt was more successful, and on March 30, 1837, the lines were run and the stakes driven that marked the town of Mercer, situated on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21, T. 14 N., R. 3 W. of the 4th P. M.

But the expectations of the proprietors were never realized. But one house was erected, and the only inhabitant of this, so far as known, was a large white owl, who held for years undisputed possession of the lonely tenement. The house rotted down, and in 1851 we crossed the town site, the only remaining mark of the existence of the town being a portion of the roof of this lonely cabin, which had not



as yet quite rotted and blown away. The town site has long been under cultivation, and few of the residents of the township remember that it was ever laid out; indeed, many of them will perhaps first learn this fact from a perusal of these pages.

Incidents of importance are of rare occurrence for a series of years, or if they occurred, are now unattainable.

In 1842 or 1843 Samuel McKee, John H. McBride, and William Carnahan, all young men of this vicinity, each took a load of wheat to Chicago, with ox teams, with three or four yoke of oxen to the wagon. They sold their wheat for forty-two cents per bushel, and brought back salt, and other necessities. Samuel McKee gave one barrel of salt from his load for the use of a wagon for the trip. The party were gone three weeks, and they wasted no time, either in Chicago or on the road.

Among the early settlers of the township but few are now living, and still fewer are those who yet reside within its limits. Among them we may mention Mr. N. Edwards, who opened a farm on section 18, in 1849; Mr. L. F. Jobusch, who settled here in 1851, and Mr. E. C. Bartlitt, who opened a farm the same year; Henry Lee, William McKee, Isaac Artz, and R. H. Wirger, still residing here, came about, or prior to, the latter date. Joseph, William and Mary Ann McKee, all children of John McKee, are the only persons now living in the township who were here in 1841.

Township organization was adopted in this county in 1853, and the first election of township officers, of which a record is found in the town records, was held at the house of John McKee, April 4, 1854. John McKee served as chairman, Isaac Jones as moderator, and E. C. Bartlitt as clerk. At this election twenty-seven votes were cast, and the following is a list of officers elected: supervisor, David Braucht; town clerk, E. C. Bartlitt; assessor, John S. Moore; collector, John Ashbaugh; overseer of poor, John Artz; commissioners of highways, L. F. Jobusch, Jacob Sprecher, R. H. Winger; justices of the peace, John McKee, John L. Candor; constables, William McKee, Israel Artz; overseers of highways, Edward Clifford, George Smith.

At the general election in the fall of the same year but sixteen votes were cast. At this time a vote was taken "for or against the county of Mercer taking one hundred thousand dollars stock in the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad," resulting nine for and five against. James E. Willett, John McKee, and Henry Lee were judges at this election, and E. C. Bartlitt and R. H. Winger clerks.

In November, 1855, a vote was taken for or against levying a tax

to build a poor-house for the county, when sixteen of the seventeen votes polled were against the levy.

In 1855 the Great Western Air Line railway was laid out, and the line divided Mercer county almost in the center from east to west, and a town laid out in the following spring on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 17, and named Aledo, a history of which will be found elsewhere.

August 3, 1857, an election was held "for or against the removal of the county seat from Keithsburg to Aledo," at which 231 votes were polled, each and all of which were very naturally "for" removal.

May 5, 1859, a special town meeting was held to vote for or against the township subscribing for stock of the American Central Railway Company (the Air Line under a new name), resulting for subscription, 132; against, 50 votes. Although this vote appears decidedly in favor of the subscription, we can find no record of the issue of any bonds to the company at this time; but on May 29, 1868, Elisha Miles, Matthew Maffitt, C. S. Richey, Hiram Parkman, James M. Macy, and J. F. Woods filed a petition with the town clerk, asking that "an election be called for the purpose of voting for or against the subscription by said township to the capital stock of the American Central railway to the amount of \$13,400," etc., and on the 9th of June said election was held, resulting 142 votes for subscription, four votes against it, and eleven votes "no tax."

In pursuance of the authority granted by this vote, bonds were issued for the above amount, March 23, 1869, in sums of \$100 each, payable ten years after date, and bearing ten per cent interest, payable annually; the bonds "to be delivered to the company when the iron was laid from Galva to Aledo, provided said iron was laid on or before July 1, 1869."

Some of these bonds were paid off by the township before they became due, and at the April meeting in 1879 the supervisor and town clerk were instructed to issue new bonds to the amount of those yet outstanding, at as low a rate of interest as possible, not to exceed the legal rate of eight per cent, and with the proceeds pay off the old bonds. The expense, however, of issuing the new bonds was avoided by an agreement with the holders to extend the time of payment at eight per cent. There are yet outstanding \$4,800, due as follows: \$2,000, May 12, 1883; \$1,000, March 23, 1884; and \$1,800, May 23, 1884. Ample provision has been made for paying them when due, and they would be paid off at once if the holders would give them up, which they decline to do.

There are now in the township nine school districts, with fair buildings, in which school is held from six to nine months each year, and



the education is progressive and keeping full pace with the demands of the times. Care is exercised in the selection of school officers, and they in turn look well into the merits and qualifications of the teachers they employ. As a rule the wages paid are above the average in the state, although seldom equal to what the same talent would command in other professions.

There is little or no vacant land in the township. What can not be tilled with profit is utilized as stock pasture, or for the growth of young timber, the latter an industry that does not receive the attention its importance demands. Our farmers are for the most part in comfortable circumstances, and what little land is leased out commands from two-fifths to one-half the crop, or a rental of \$4 to \$5 per acre per annum, in advance. Corn and stock-raising are the leading agricultural interests, although grain of all kinds is raised and commands good prices in our market. While comparatively little fruit is raised for market, each farm has an orchard of well selected trees, from which the family is expected to be supplied, with perhaps a small surplus to sell. Apples and cherries generally do well, but peaches and pears seldom bear a fair crop, or come to maturity. Most of the orchards are supplied with home-grown trees from the extensive nursery of Mr. Tyler McWhorter, one-half mile south of Aledo. Grapes and berries are grown largely, and in a fair season our markets are overstocked.

Our population is at present about 2,550; our people are industrious, energetic, wealthy and well educated. Our farmers have good, and many of them very fine residences, with large and well filled barns and granaries; implements and machinery of the best and most labor-saving kinds; horses, cattle and hogs of the finest breeds. Roads and bridges are generally kept in good repair, but such a thing as a good road at all seasons is impracticable with our soil and will never be attained here without large expense for gravel, or some substitute of the same nature.

The present town officers, elected April 4, 1882, are as follows: supervisor, H. R. Morrison (who was elected in 1878 and has held the position ever since, and who is now chairman of the county board); town clerk, L. B. Doughty, elected first in 1879; assessor, J. A. Marquis, second year; collector, F. T. Owen, second year; commissioners of highways, R. C. Morrison, W. K. Fulton, John C. Dool; justices of the peace, M. L. Marsh, elected first in 1862, and has held continually ever since, and M. S. Boice, elected in 1882, to fill vacancy; constables, Joseph McDougal, elected in 1870, and held ever since, and Geo. A. Smith, elected in 1881; school trustees, W. C. Galloway, Henry Lee and W. J. Brown; school treasurer, Joseph McCoy.

The equalized valuation of real estate, personal, and railroad property in Mercer township in 1881, as shown on assessor's book, was \$979,837. These figures, however, represent less than one-third of the actual wealth of the township, which, at a fair cash rating, must considerably exceed \$3,000,000.

The census report of 1880 showed a population of 2,454; a gain of 507 over the report of 1870. The same average increase, which we think has been fully maintained during the past two years, would make our population now about 2,550, as given above.

In noting the products of the township, we made no mention of the hay crop, which is one of present and constantly growing importance; nor of sorghum, which is grown and manufactured in quantities to meet the home demand. Vegetables of all kinds are raised in abundance and sold in large quantities to dealers and shippers. Potatoes are generally a good crop, 1881 being an exceptionally poor year for them, and one of the very few in which our growers have failed to raise enough to supply the home demand.

#### ALEDO.

The survey and location of the Great Western Air Line railroad through the county, opened a wide field for speculation in the establishment of new towns; and the result of one of these was the location and platting of a town on section 17, in Mercer township, in the fall of 1855, which was christened De Soto by its founders, Messrs. Willits and Thompson. Finding that there was already a village bearing that name in this state, a new one was deemed necessary, and from a number suggested, the choice fell upon Aledo. On March 20, 1856, a public sale of lots was held on the site of the proposed town. This sale was attended by what was then considered a large crowd, and the bidding was spirited and at times exciting, when what was considered a choice location was offered. 112 lots were sold at a fraction over \$103 each, aggregating \$11,580. The first two lots offered brought \$240 each; the highest price paid for any lot was \$255, while two went as low as \$35 each. Among the purchasers were Judge E. Gilmore and M. L. Marsh, Esq., who still reside in Aledo. The proprietors had decided to donate the proceeds of the sale of the first fifty lots to the establishment of a college or seminary, and the amount realized for that purpose was \$5,780. The first building erected was put up by the proprietors of the town, on the north side of Seventh street, near Maple, during the early summer of 1856; and as soon as it could be occupied, a hotel was opened, with J. E. Harroun as landlord. The carpenters, while building it, boarded with a farmer living near the



town site. The building is still standing, and is used as a business house below and residence above. The business rooms are occupied by M. S. Boice, with a china store, and W. J. Stuart with a barber shop, while a recent addition is used as a cigar manufactory by C. L. Brankamp. The building is now owned by Capt. L. B. Morey.

The first business house erected was on College avenue, south of the railroad, and was occupied by John S. Moore and O. C. Allen, under name of Moore & Allen, with a general stock of dry goods, groceries, hardware, etc. Dr. S. Macy started the first drug store, and was the first dentist in the new village. Thomas Maddox opened the first hardware store and tin shop. He is still a resident, although long since retired from business. J. E. Harroun was the first postmaster, and it is said he carried the mail in his hat, and delivered it whenever or wherever he should happen to meet the fortunate recipient of a letter or newspaper. Judge John S. Thompson built what was then considered a very fine residence, and moved into it in the fall of 1857; and right here we will say something of the proprietors of the town. Judge T. was one of the early lawyers of the county, and had attained a fair prominence in his profession in the district. He was subsequently elected circuit judge and filled the position acceptably. During what was termed the "Johnson campaign," he was a candidate for congress on the Johnson, or fusion, ticket, but was defeated. He was, moreover, a man of energy and push, and whatever he understood he generally pushed to completion. Failing in his political aspirations, he turned his attention to securing the completion of the railroad so long promised, but as yet without prospect of completion. Largely through his efforts the company was reorganized under the name of the American Central; new subscriptions were secured from townships, villages, and private individuals. He was indefatigable in his efforts, and would doubtless have pushed the road through to completion under the organization of which he was president, had he not secured an advantageous arrangement with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, whereby the latter was to complete the road from Galva to Keithsburg for the consideration of a lease thereof for ninety-nine years. Under this arrangement the road was completed in 1869, and has since been operated under the charter of the American Central, but is known as the Galva and Keithsburg branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. This lease, however, was distasteful to the people, who, while paying their subscriptions to the railroad, did not relish the idea that the funds went into the pockets of the judge and his associates, and many were the anathemas showered upon his head. This, we believe, was all wrong; the judge had secured the

completion of the road, which has proven worth more to one and all than was ever hoped for, and it matters little whether it was built and operated by the American Central or the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. It may have been to a certain extent a "sell out" on the subscribers, but it was much better to be "sold out" with the road than without it. The advantages conferred and secured by the road certainly far outweigh the disadvantages under which we might still be laboring but for the energy and tact of Judge John S. Thompson.

Shortly after the completion of the road, Judge T. removed to San Jose, California, where he followed his profession of the law, and entered into politics to some extent; but having had some experience in railroad building, he has again entered into that pursuit, and is at present president of a new company known as the Rock Island & Southwestern, which proposes to build a road from Rock Island to New Boston, where it will cross the river and connect with ex-senator Harlan's road to Kansas City. Surveys have been made, and efforts are now in progress for securing the right of way and the establishment of the line. The surveys run through Duncan, Eliza, and New Boston townships, and if built will open up a rich section now having poor facilities for reaching market. The headquarters of the company are in Chicago, where the judge at present resides.

Levi Willits, his partner, was one of the early settlers of New Boston, and he and William Drury were among the first business men of that place, where for many years they conducted a general store, and by judicious investments in real estate, both laid the foundation for wealth. Mr. Willits was a thorough and far-seeing business man, and so open-handed and liberal in his dealing that he won the regard of all with whom he came in contact, and at his death in 1858, he was truly mourned by all who knew him.

In 1857 the Barton house, on the corner of College avenue and Seventh street, was erected and opened by D. N. Barton. It was a large four-story brick building, one of the largest at that time in the military tract, and has ever since ranked as a leading hotel of the place. It changed hands a number of times, until the ownership fell to Mr. Schuyler Button; but a short time after he took possession it caught fire and was destroyed, the walls being so badly damaged that they were taken down. The fire occurred on November 16, 1867, and the loss was \$10,000, the heaviest ever experienced before or since within the village. The building was at once rebuilt, and is at present occupied by John S. Button, a son of the gentleman last mentioned.

We cannot name all of the first business men, but will try and note those who are still residing here, who came in 1856 or 1857.



James M. Wilson, lawyer, established a furniture store in 1857; was subsequently elected circuit clerk; read law, and has for years been a member of the firm of Pepper & Wilson. I. N. Bassett, of the law firm of Bassett & Wharton, has practiced here continuously since 1857. C. F. Cunningham has been in business here since the spring of the same year, first as a painter, and afterward starting and still running a carriage shop. His brother, Frank C., learned the painting trade with him, and is still following it. M. L. Marsh opened an office as notary public in 1857; was afterward elected justice of the peace, in which office he is now serving his fifth consecutive term. Horace Bigelow, one of the founders of the "Record," in June of 1857, is still one of its publishers, having now been connected with it for a quarter of a century. N. Edwards came here in 1857 or 1858, and has been in business of some kind ever since. George McEowen started a wagon-shop in 1857, and still does a little repairing at the old stand. John Rainey has resided in the same house twenty-five years. Joseph McCoy, T. H. Day, J. H. Abercrombie, H. R. Morrison, C. S. Richey, and J. M. Warwick were among the first residents, and are still here. D. V. Reed, now deceased, was another, and his wife lives adjoining town. Capt. J. Y. Merritt, now of Eliza township, came to the town site with the first load of lumber.

The great event, however, of 1857, was the removal of the county seat from Keithsburg to Aledo, which was decided by a vote of the people on August 3d of that year. The result was a majority in favor of removal, of 930 out of a total vote of 2,028. Below we give the figures from official returns:

Township.	For removal.	Against.	Total vote.
North Henderson.....	89	25	114
North Pope (now Rivoli).....	74	1	75
Richland Grove.....	104	..	104
Suez.....	60	18	78
Greene.....	62	40	102
Maclura (now Preemption).....	133	1	134
Ohio Grove.....	121	9	130
Mercer.....	231	..	231
Perryton.....	126	3	129
Abington.....	34	67	101
Millersburg.....	84	82	166
Duncan.....	36	23	59
Keithsburg.....	26	228	254
New Boston.....	233	45	278
Eliza.....	66	7	73
Totals.....	1,479	549	2,028

The majority was of a decisive character as an expression of the will of the people, and we remember of a sort of a jollification in Aledo after the returns were received, but we can find no account of it in the "Record" of that week; whether the editor thought the affair of too small importance to mention, or was too magnanimous to harass his Keithsburg readers with the account, we cannot now conjecture. But the citizens had a good time, at any rate, and fired anvils, burned turpentine balls, and shouted to their hearts' content.

Aledo citizens had donated a block of ground for a court-house, and had subscribed between \$6,000 and \$7,000 toward its construction. A brick building had been erected, suitable for use as county offices, and as soon as possible after the decision the officers and records were brought to Aledo. The building now used for a court-house was erected for a school-house, but the lower story was fitted up so that it could be used for a court-room, and it was in this that the first term of court was held.

One of the attorneys at this term was Charles M. Harris of Oquawka, but who has since removed to Chicago, and for one term represented that district in congress. Mr. Harris was a very large, heavy man, and somewhat pompous withal. Aledo had no sidewalks in those days, and in wet weather mud abounded everywhere. One day Mr. Harris, while returning from the court-room to the hotel, got stuck fast in the mud in the middle of the street. He wore very low shoes or slippers, and they would pull off at every effort he made to extricate himself. The few who witnessed his efforts were much amused. Finally Mr. Jacob Cool procured a team and some assistance, backed the wagon up to Mr. Harris, and by hard work those in the wagon pulled him out of his shoes and drove him to his hotel, where a boy was found ready to earn a dime by fishing up and cleaning the lost brogans. Mr. Cool still lives in Aledo, and we who witnessed the fun often have a laugh as we speak of "Charley Harris stuck in the mud."

The first school taught in Aledo was the preparatory department of the Mercer Collegiate Institute, by the Rev. William Townley, in a building erected in the southwest part of the town, long since remodeled and turned into a residence. The Mercer Collegiate Institute was designed to be a college of the first class, under the auspices of the Presbyterian church. They built a large brick building on what is now known as south addition, and started a school therein, but it was not supported in a manner to secure success. The idea of the college was at last abandoned, and as the building was deemed unsafe,



owing to the use of poor stone in its foundation, it was sold and pulled down, the material being disposed of at retail for what it would bring.

The Methodists also proposed to found a college here, and the Rev. H. J. Humphrey was sent here to superintend its construction. Ground was secured, a most beautiful site, on the apex of a mound about half a mile west of town, now in the center of the farm of John C. Dool. Foundations were laid for a large and expensive structure, a commodious residence built for President Humphrey (now owned by I. N. Bassett, Esq.), and suddenly the enterprise collapsed, for want of funds to carry it further. The Methodist Episcopal college was a failure.

Later Mr. J. R. Wylie established the Aledo academy, which is still running, it having received a living, if not a liberal support. The course of study is that usually taught in academies, and Mr. Wylie is a thorough and competent teacher. While the school is not strictly sectarian, Prof. Wylie is a strong United Presbyterian, and his school is largely supported by the membership of that church. The academy building is beautifully located on a block in the south part of the town, is not large, but is well arranged, and sufficient in size to accommodate more students than have yet been brought together within its walls. It is a good school and worthy of support, but with the present advanced course of study in our public schools it can never hope for a very liberal support, the public schools fitting students for admission to our best colleges, or for a place among the ranks of teachers, which is all that can be expected of an academy.

The history of the Aledo public schools is of such importance that we will devote a chapter specially to them.

Aledo has been singularly fortunate in regard to fires. The first of importance was the burning of the residence and drug-store of Dr. S. Macy in October, 1866, entailing a loss of about \$1,000 over and above insurance. The Button house was burned in 1868, and in June, 1871, the large livery barn of Smith & McBride was burned, the loss being from \$2,000 to \$3,000. The next fire occurred on July 2, 1876, when the fine residence of Joseph Harvey on Seventh street was totally destroyed, just as it was completed and before it was ready for occupancy. The loss was about \$2,000 above insurance. The last was the burning of the residence of Edward James in the southwest part of the town, his loss being about \$700. There have been numerous alarms and frequent incipient blazes, but fortunately those enumerated are all that have caused much damage. The village has a small but efficient volunteer fire company, well equipped with one large and a number of small chemical engines, hose and ladder wagon, buckets, etc., and

their prompt and efficient work has more than once saved valuable property from the flames.

Two severe wind storms have visited Aledo, each doing considerable damage. The first was in the early years of its history, and the most serious damage was removing the frame of the Methodist Episcopal church (then in course of erection) partially off of its foundation. The second came in June, 1876, and unroofed barns, leveled fences and trees, damaged a number of buildings, and blew down the spire and a part of the south end of the United Presbyterian church, which had but recently been built and was yet partially unfinished. The congregation had it at once rebuilt and the lower story fitted for occupancy, and have worshiped in it ever since, having only just commenced the work of finishing the upper story.

Aledo has seven churches, but as these have been written up elsewhere we will only name them. They are the Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, Congregationalist, Episcopal, Swedish Lutheran, and Baptist. The pulpits of the Congregationalists and Baptists are now vacant, and that of the Lutherans is occupied but half the time.

The growth of the village has been at times spasmodic; at times steady and substantial. It has now passed the spasmodic period; brick is more and more used, and some of her business houses would do honor to much larger places.

The first business houses were opened south of the railroad, and for a number of years that part of town was the business center; but this gradually worked northward, and at present College avenue, north from the railroad, and Seventh street, east of the avenue, are the main business localities.

The population of Aledo in 1880, within the corporate limits, was 1,500; but this included none of the additions to the village outside the corporation lines. Counting these, the number reached about 2,000, which has been since slightly increased; 2,100 would be a fair estimate at present.

The equalized valuation of property, as returned by the assessor for 1881, was as follows: lots, \$160,847; personal, \$323,365; railroad, \$13,527; total, \$497,739; say in round numbers, \$500,000. Taking into account the manner of assessing, at one-half, one-third, and often one-fifth of the actual value of property, and \$2,000,000 is a low figure for the wealth here represented.

The town was incorporated in 1863, under the general laws, an election being held August 15 of that year, resulting forty-eight votes for incorporation and five against. The first election for trustees was



held September 5, 1853, at which the following were chosen: Simeon Macy, president; E. Gilmore, George Turner, William McK. Young, and John R. Bassett. The latter served as village clerk, and N. P. Brown was appointed treasurer.

In September, 1872, village organization was adopted, under the provisions of the laws of that year; the election, November 11, resulting forty-four votes for, and five against village organization.

In 1879 the ordinances of the village were revised by James M. Wilson and Charles F. Durston, and were published in neat pamphlet form.

The following is a list of officers from the first incorporation of the town to the present date:

1863-5.—Simeon Macy, president; E. Gilmore, George Turner, William McK. Young, trustees; John R. Bassett, clerk; N. P. Brown, treasurer.

1865-6.—Simeon Macy, president; J. S. Paxton, John R. Bassett, N. P. Brown, S. W. McCoy, trustees; S. C. Amberson, clerk; James M. Wilson, treasurer.

1866-7.—Simeon Macy, president; J. G. McGuffin, John Porter, N. P. Brown, William N. Graham, trustees; James M. Macy, clerk; James M. Wilson, treasurer.

1867-8.—M. L. Marsh, president; John Porter, Robert Irvin, Lewis L. Troy, William N. Graham, trustees; James H. Connell, clerk; Lewis W. Hause, treasurer.

1868-9.—S. W. McCoy, president; H. E. Wright, Wm. Robinson, T. H. Day, C. M. Kay, trustees; C. J. Bartleson, clerk; L. W. Hause, treasurer.

1869-70.—C. S. Richey, president; P. Roberts, J. H. Snyder, Wm. N. Graham, J. M. Smith, trustees; John G. McGuffin, treasurer; James H. Connell, clerk.

1870-71.—R. Mentzer, president; I. N. Dunlap, H. R. Morrison, J. S. Pinkerton, Robert Irvin, trustees; J. H. Connell, clerk; A. M. Byers, treasurer.

1871-2.—N. Edwards, president; R. Mentzer, H. L. Thomson, T. Maddux, W. H. Holmes, trustees; N. Edwards, treasurer; H. L. Thomson, clerk.

1872-3.—S. W. Gailey, president; Wm. N. Graham, J. M. Smith, E. L. Wolfe, S. C. Amberson, trustees; Wm. N. Graham, treasurer; E. L. Wolff, clerk.

1873-4.—E. Gilmore, president; Joseph Harvey, J. H. Abercrombie, John Geiger, H. P. Graham, John McKinney, Jr., trustees; C. S. Richey, treasurer; L. D. Holmes, clerk.

1874-5.—E. Gilmore, president; Geo. L. Bitts, C. S. Richey, H. S. Senter, J. C. Thomson, Geo. Irwin, trustees; L. D. Holmes, clerk; H. L. Thomson, treasurer.

1875-6.—S. M. Evans, president; H. S. Dunlap, J. M. Smith, Wm. Winders, John Geiger, J. O. Lundlad, trustees; Joseph Harvey, treasurer; A. D. McCandless, clerk.

1876-7.—James M. Wilson, president; C. F. Durston, James Eakin, E. B. David, J. B. Moore, W. C. Galloway, trustees; J. F. Henderson, clerk; C. S. Harvey, treasurer; Wm. McK. Young, police magistrate.

1877-8.—James M. Wilson, president; C. F. Durston, E. B. David, J. B. Moore, James M. Smith, James Eakin, trustees; J. F. Henderson, clerk; Wm. N. Graham, treasurer.

1878-9.—E. B. David, president; James M. Wilson, C. F. Durston, J. B. Moore, W. A. Lorimer, A. H. Law, trustees; J. F. Henderson, clerk; Wm. N. Graham, treasurer.

1879-80.—E. B. David, president; James M. Wilson, C. F. Durston, J. B. Moore, W. A. Lorimer, M. F. Felix, trustees; J. F. Henderson, clerk; Wm. N. Graham, treasurer.

1880-81.—J. B. Moore, president; C. F. Durston, M. F. Felix, W. A. Lorimer, Martin Boyd, J. R. McCrea, trustees; J. F. Henderson, clerk; W. N. Graham, treasurer; W. McK. Young, police magistrate.

Under the law now in force one half of the above were to hold two years and one half but one. It was decided by lot, and the three trustees last mentioned drew the long term.

1881-2.—M. F. Felix, president; W. A. Lorimer, Martin Boyd, J. R. McCrea, H. Parkman, L. D. Holmes, trustees; J. W. Dilley, clerk; Wm. N. Graham, treasurer.

*Present Officers.*—M. F. Felix, president; H. Parkman, L. D. Holmes, J. B. Moore, Martin Boyd, H. Prentice, trustees; J. F. Henderson, clerk; Wm. N. Graham, treasurer; W. McK. Young, police magistrate.

Aledo has ever been noted for the strong temperance views of its citizens, and since the spring of 1876 no saloon has been allowed within its limits. There is now in force an ordinance which prohibits the sale of spirituous liquors, even by druggists, for any purpose whatsoever, except under restrictions so severe that none of the druggists have asked for a permit. It makes it a misdemeanor for a physician to prescribe liquor "except where good practice demands it," but fails to define what "good practice" is. As a consequence, physicians prescriptions must be taken to other towns if liquor is one of the ingredients.



The Aledo cemetery is beautifully located, adjoining the town on the southeast. A part of it was donated, and the village has within a few years purchased a large addition. It is kept in fair condition and is partially set to evergreens. Some very fine monuments mark the resting place of departed friends.

#### BUSINESS.

L. F. Jobusch has occupied the same stand in the grocery business for over twenty years. J. H. Abercrombie has carried on the harness business most of the time since the town was started. H. R. Morrison has been continually in the furniture trade for twenty years or more. Samuel Marquis started the livery business at his present stand during the war. James Galloway & Son, started a grocery in 1869, and are the oldest firm in that business in town, in which there has been no change. C. S. Richey and John Shafer have been longer in the dry goods trade than other firms in town, but each have belonged to two or three different firms. Fred. Davis still occupies the blacksmith shop he built over twenty-five years ago.

The banks, as the moneyed institutions of the town, deserve more than a passing notice. The first bank started was by Bailey & Byers, in February, 1879, in a frame building that then stood on Seventh street, opposite and west of Button house, and was the only one then in the county. In the fall of that year Judge E. Gilmore purchased the interest of Bailey, and the firm was known as A. M. Byers & Co. In 1870, the large brick building on southeast corner of College avenue and Seventh street was erected, the corner room being fitted for a bank, and the remainder as business rooms. It is now occupied by the Aledo bank; J. F. McBride and Mrs. A. M. Young on first floor, while the second is used as attorneys' offices and masonic lodge room. In April, 1874, A. M. Byers sold his interest to John McKinney, Sr., and agreed to do nothing in the banking business for one year. At the end of the year he organized a joint stock company and started a bank known as A. M. Byers & Co.'s Farmers Bank, opening it in the brick building on northeast corner of Seventh street and College avenue, which was purchased and fitted up for that purpose. The capital is over sixty thousand dollars and cannot be increased or diminished until 1885. The stockholders are business men of Aledo and wealthy farmers scattered throughout the county, and the business is managed by A. M. Byers and a finance committee.

A. M. Byers was born and brought up on a farm near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and commenced his business career as clerk in a general store. In 1855, when about twenty years of age, he decided to attend

a commercial college, but finally changed his mind, and after visiting Chicago and the west, he engaged in traveling for a wholesale grocery house in Goshen, Indiana. The next year he clerked for Col. John Williams, the pioneer merchant of Springfield, Illinois, and the next in a store at Rushville, Illinois. For the next few years he made his home at Beardstown, Illinois, but spent much of his time in Richardson county, Nebraska, where he engaged largely in land speculations, and still owns some 2,000 acres of land on the Kansas and Nebraska line, some of it purchased in 1858. During these years he made an extended trip south, visiting all of the southern States except Florida.

March 13, 1861, he was married to Miss May F. Tull, at Beardstown, Illinois, and after a season of travel and sight-seeing, they settled in Adams county, Illinois, where Mr. B. engaged extensively in farming and dealing in live stock, until about the close of the war, when, in connection with Thomas Bailey, of Camp Point, Illinois, he engaged in banking in that town, which is situated on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, twenty-five miles east of Quincy. This they conducted profitably until 1869, when they opened the Aledo bank, but soon dissolved partnership, Mr. Bailey taking the Camp Point bank, and Mr. Byers remaining here and entering into partnership with E. Gilmore.

Mr. Byers has been uniformly successful in his business enterprises and has found his ventures in Aledo highly satisfactory, so much so that when he sold out his interest in the Aledo bank, he decided to continue in the business here, after spending some months in search of a more promising location. He thoroughly understands his business, and has the entire confidence of the business community and of his associate stockholders in the bank. He owns a commodious and handsome residence, the interior of which is a model of neatness and comfort, a home in every sense of the word.

His family consists of himself, wife, daughter Olive and son Edward. To the daughter he has given every educational advantage, and she is a graduate of Monticello seminary. Her musical talent is of a superior order and she ranks among the best in Aledo as a pianist and vocalist.

Upon the organization of the Farmers' Bank, Capt. L. B. Morey was associated with Mr. Byers in its management for the first two years, when, finding the business too confining, he retired. Capt. Morey was almost raised in Mercer county. He served with distinction during the war as a lieutenant in company A, 37th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., rising to the rank of captain. He was for a long time on the staff of Gen. F. J. Herron, during his operations in Arkansas and



Louisiana. He is still a resident of Aledo, and, in company with Martin Boyd, is engaged extensively in farming and stock raising.

On the retirement of Capt. Morey from the bank, Mr. William N. Graham was engaged as cashier, a position in which he is now serving his fifth year, during all of which time he has faithfully discharged his duties. Mr. Graham came to Aledo over twenty years ago, engaged in the plastering business for awhile with his brother H. P., taught school, clerked for Poage & Senter and Harvey Senter, was in the dry goods business with his brother George P. for awhile, with J. S. Paxton in the grocery business, and served one term as county treasurer, prior to entering the bank. He has always proven himself a good business man.

Such is a brief history of the banking business in Aledo, so far as Mr. Byers has been connected with it. The Farmers' Bank is on a sound financial basis, has an ample capital, and is backed by men of wealth and influence. It is an institution that has added largely to the growth and prosperity of Aledo, and deserves what it has ever received, the support and patronage of the citizens of our county.

The Aledo Bank is also one of the solid institutions of the county. Mr. John McKinney, Sr., bought the interest of A. M. Byers in April of 1874, and the firm name became McKinney, Gilmore & Co., the "Co." being L. C. Gilmore, son of the judge. This firm continued until April of the present year, when Mr. McKinney purchased the interest of the Gilmores, and associated with himself his son James, under the name of McKinney & Co. Mr. John E. Gilmore, who was for some years in the employ of the old firm, still occupies the teller's desk. The bank has an ample capital to meet all demands of its patrons.

Mr. John McKinney, Sr., was one of the early business men of Oquawka, where he for many years conducted a large and eminently successful dry goods business. Tiring of this he retired, and for a number of years did a large business in loaning money in that place and vicinity. When he entered the Aledo Bank he purchased the fine residence of Judge John S. Thompson, and has transacted an extensive business in the way of loans, in addition to the regular banking business, having much more capital at his command than could be profitably used in the latter.

In 1881 he erected a large brick building adjoining the bank property and known as McKinney block. It is one of the best arranged and most commodious business blocks in town, and the only one having a plate-glass front. One room is occupied by J. H. Ramsey with his fine jewelry stock, and O. A. Wallen with boots and shoes. The

other is used for the postoffice, having been built and arranged for that special purpose. The boxes, general delivery, etc., are equal to those found in large cities, and when fully completed the Aledo post-office will be one of the best and most conveniently arranged of any in Western Illinois. John McKinney, Jr., is postmaster, and John, senior, takes a pardonable pride in making the room a credit to the owner and to the village. The upper floor of the building is divided into commodious and well arranged office rooms. Mr. McKinney has recently purchased the property adjoining the bank building on the south, and contemplates building a substantial brick building thereon at an early day.

The Aledo Bank enjoys the confidence and receives the patronage of the community at large, and is known to stand A 1 in the large commercial centers. Its business is large and remunerative, and it reflects credit and adds dignity and standing to the town whose name it bears. James McKinney, the junior member of the firm, has for a number of years assisted his father in his loan and real estate business, and is well qualified, by education and training, for the position of cashier, which he now fills. Archie McKinney, a younger brother, has taken his place in the loan department. The latter is a young man of fine attainments, having received a thorough college training, and graduated with honor. He read law with the firm of Pepper & Wilson, and was last year admitted to the bar. He has spent several months in Chicago where he expected to remain until recalled to take his present position. John E. Gilmore is a grandson of Judge E. Gilmore, and since the death of his father, some years ago, made his home with his grandparents. He has received a liberal education, and has a thorough business training in the bank in which he is now engaged, and his connection therewith cannot fail to prove advantageous to the business. The safe used is one of the best manufactured; is made of five plates of solid steel, with solid corners, built from the outside inward, and is fire as well as burglar proof. It is provided with the Yale time lock, and the most approved combination locks on inner and outer doors. It weighs three tons, and stands in a fire proof vault of rock and brick. With its large capital, and such perfect vault and safe, unlimited security is offered to depositors. The safe is as good as any in the state, and its equal cannot perhaps be found outside of Chicago. L. C. Gilmore is also still connected with the bank. Few towns in our state can boast of two such banks, and the fact that there is business enough for both speaks well for the wealth and business enterprise of Aledo and Mercer county.

Summing all up, Aledo well deserves the good name it bears among



all who know of the business enterprise of her citizens. The latter are enterprising, progressive and public spirited in an unusual degree. Her business houses are mostly of brick; large and well filled with inviting and salable goods. She can boast of more and better sidewalks than any village of the same size in the state; indeed, some of the cities will not compare favorably with her in this regard. Her churches are numerous, large and well attended. Her public schools are among the best in the state. Her streets are well lighted and well kept. There are an unusually large number of fine residences and comfortable homes. She is surrounded by a wealthy and prosperous farming community, and lies in the center of as rich and productive a section as can anywhere be found. While her past has been one of steady advancement, her future is promising; there is scarcely a possibility, and no probability of a loss of prestige, or a decline in wealth, prosperity or business enterprise.

[For the compilation of the above sketch of Mercer township we are indebted to L. B. Doughty, Esq.—Ed.]

#### THE ALEDO WEEKLY RECORD.

Intimately associated with the history of Aledo is that of the "Record," established in 1857, the initial number appearing on July 14 of that year, by James H. Reed and Horace Bigelow, under the firm name of Reed & Bigelow. These gentlemen had been publishing the Oquawka "Plain Dealer," but had sold the office in May, 1857, to Magie & Mitchell. The material for the "Record" office was purchased in Chicago, shipped to Rock Island by rail, and thence transported to Aledo on wagons.

Established during the heat of the canvass for the removal of the county seat from Keithsburg to Aledo, the "Record" heartily espoused the cause of its native town, and though the time was short, contributed much toward insuring the success which in August crowned the efforts of those interested in the removal.

J. H. Reed was a man of good education, a vigorous and aggressive writer, quick and keen at repartee, and an editor of rare ability; a good friend, but an untiring and relentless enemy in political contests. He was a man of fair business qualifications, but was not a practical printer. He died in Monmouth, Illinois.

Horace Bigelow served an apprenticeship at the printer's trade in the office of the Oquawka "Spectator," under Col. J. B. Patterson. In March, 1855, he purchased a one-half interest in the Oquawka "Plain Dealer," of F. A. Dallam, and was probably at that time the youngest publisher in the state, being but twenty years of age. Dal-

lam subsequently sold to Reed, and when the firm sold the office Mr. B. spent some time in the large job printing establishment of S. P. Rounds, in Chicago, increasing his knowledge of that branch of the art. He has the reputation of being a first-class business man, and has by honest industry and energy, and careful and judicious management, secured for himself and family a good home and a fair competence, owning a fine farm of 150 acres north of Aledo, adjoining the corporation, upon which he resides and which he works to advantage and profit, independent of his interest in the "Record" office.

In June, 1857, the material arrived and the office was opened in a large double building on College avenue, almost directly opposite the building now occupied. The other half of the building was occupied by Dr. S. Macy, as a dental room and drug-store, who afterward purchased and remodeled the building only to lose it by fire. A much better building now stands on the old site.

September 1, 1862, Mr. Reed retired from the firm, Mr. Bigelow purchasing his interest. He conducted the business alone for four years, employing Mr. John Porter as both typo and editor. September 1, 1866, Mr. Porter purchased a one-half interest, and the firm has since been known as Porter & Bigelow.

John Porter, who has been political editor of the "Record" for twenty years, is perhaps one of the best read men, so far as the political history of our nation is concerned, to be found in western Illinois. His life has been almost passed in a printing office, he commencing to learn the trade January 4, 1834, in the office of the Richmond "Examiner," in Jefferson county, Ohio, and he has stood at the case during all of these forty-eight years. He has always been a close student of political history, and possessing a memory which is almost phenomenal, he can readily call to mind men, measures and dates of the long ago which to others are but dim scraps of forgotten history. A forcible writer, a wary, but not aggressive antagonist, he seeks no quarrel, but when assailed he patiently awaits his opportunity and then deals a strong and generally successful blow.

Established as a republican paper, when the republican party was in its infancy, the "Record" has remained ever loyal to the principles of the party, and has taken an active part in every campaign, whether national, state or county, and its utterances have been of no uncertain sound. It was one of the first newspapers to suggest the name of Abraham Lincoln as a candidate for the presidency, and one of his most earnest supporters, not only during the canvass, but throughout his administration, and also for his re-election. During the war it was loyal to the core, and its columns were the popular medium of



communication between the Mercer boys in the army and their friends at home, it having a correspondent in nearly every regiment in which the county was represented.

But while striking valiant blows for the union and for the cause of its party, it has kept itself singularly clear of what is termed "mud slinging;" the rule having ever been to make no charges against opposing candidates that were not easily susceptible of proof, or at least believed to be so at the time of publication.

Another rule of the office, and one strictly adhered to, is that no foreign advertising will be received for less than home patrons are charged for same time and space. Consequently but few "patent medicine" advertisements, and others of like nature have ever appeared in its columns.

In 1873, L. B. Doughty was employed in the office as foreman and job printer, but having had considerable experience as a local writer, he was soon relieved of most of the work in the composing room, and for the past eight years has had charge of the local department of the paper, which has constantly grown in popularity, and has been one cause of a steady increase on the subscription list, which has reached the comfortable figure of 1,300 weekly, and is still growing.

The job department of the office is deservedly popular, and is liberally patronized, especially in the line of commercial work. The circulation having grown beyond the capacity of the press which has done faithful duty for the past twenty-five years, a new Cottrell press has recently been purchased. And now, after a quarter of a century the proprietors can boast that in all that time they have never missed an issue, have never used a "patent inside," and have never failed to appear promptly on time on publication day, except in a few instances when the paper was purposely held back for important news.

As a prominent factor in the growth of village and county, as a popular means of promoting the educational interests, as well as a disseminator of reliable news, the "Record" has proven itself worthy of the high esteem in which it is held by those familiar with its pages; and it has accomplished much for the moral as well as the temporal interests of the county.

#### THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS IN ALEDO.

Mercer county has been politically a republican county ever since the organization of that party. Issues have occasionally been made on men or measures by means of which republicans have been defeated, and democrats or other opponents have been elected by the people; but these instances, however frequent, were still only excep-



*Daniel Jones*





tional, and the continued ascendancy of the republican party has been maintained and augmented greatly by the fact that as soon as the county seat was settled at Aledo, a party organ was promptly provided, the official patronage of the county bestowed on it, and the people, especially of the dominant party, slowly but surely educated to contribute to the material support of their newspaper.

The democratic party, in the minority numerically and without men of capital, or hopes of official patronage, and destitute of ambitious leaders, made no attempt to establish a party organ for nearly a dozen years after.

In the summer of 1866, circumstances conspired to make the time favorable for starting a democratic newspaper in Aledo, something to be made a rallying center for the democrats of the county and those displeased with the action of the majority in congress at that time. President Lincoln had been assassinated the year before, and vice-president Johnson, becoming acting president, projected an administrative policy to which a majority of his party in congress was opposed. Hostile feeling and action arose between the acting president and the congress, and many removals and appointments to office were being made, favorable to the policy of the administration and generally favorable to the democrats. Appearances were that a change might be made in the political complexion of the whole country, and that, with the aid of what were called the liberal republicans, Mercer county even might be revolutionized. The reconstruction measures were then being enacted. Many of the republicans thought these measures too radical, if not wholly unauthorized by the organic law, while the democrats, in addition, felt exasperated at the political disadvantage at which the party was placed by the disfranchisement of so many southern states.

One of these disaffected republicans, Judge John S. Thompson, of Aledo, an able lawyer and shrewd organizer, was put up for congress against the republican candidate, Gen. Harding. The district was then perhaps 200 miles long, extending from Port Byron to Keokuk along the Mississippi river, and Charles Harris, of Oquawka, a straight democrat, had been able to be elected to congress not many years prior to this election. Hope was entertained of success under the leadership of Judge Thompson, and the democrats, in this sanguine mood of mind, some time in the month of August had an informal assembly of some of its more prominent members at the Barton house in Aledo, now the Button house.

At this meeting it was determined to raise funds and start a democratic newspaper. The plan adopted was a stock company, bound by



a simple personal agreement without articles of incorporation. The shares were \$10, and each member of the company was entitled to as many votes for officers as he held shares.

A considerable amount was subscribed at this meeting, and three or four papers were prepared and put into the hands of canvassers, by means of which about \$1,400 was in a short time pledged.

Before the Barton house meeting closed its sittings and put its papers in hand, it was necessary to name the paper. Several titles were proposed, of more or less partisan import; but that fatal timidity and spirit of boundless concession that has so long been an element of weakness in the democratic party, prevailed on this occasion, and the proposed paper took the neutral meaningless title of "The Mercer County Press."

J. A. J. Birdsall, a piquant, versatile writer, and good collector of local news, who had had some experience in publishing a democratic paper in Keithsburg, was chosen as editor and publisher; and with \$475, advanced by Hon. T. B. Cabeen, Birdsall went to Chicago and laid in a press and materials for printing the paper, taking some credit; and some time in the month of September the first number of the "Press" was issued.

The pledge for the payment of stock subscriptions ran in this way: "We, the undersigned, agree to pay to the publishers of 'The Mercer County Press' the sums set opposite our names, for the purpose of publishing a democratic paper in the county of Mercer and state of Illinois, whenever called for, or in a reasonable time."

The "Press" was duly issued. The campaign was a spirited one, but lost to the democracy, and their earnest colleagues. After this collapse the spirit and enthusiasm of the Press company were rapidly cooled. The fatal clause in the compact giving "a reasonable" but indefinite time for payment of stock now began to show its turpitude; not more than two-thirds of the stock was ever collected. T. B. Cabeen lost about \$250 in money advanced to the "Press"; and T. S. Robb and I. C. Gilmore, and other liberal men who made advances from time to time to keep down expenses, had more or less of final loss. The stock subscribers were nearly all amply able to pay; but from some defect in the organization or energy in the conduct of affairs, no forcible means were ever employed to make collections.

The subscriptions to the paper were taken up in the same hasty, loose manner that characterized the stock subscriptions. But few were pressed to pay on sight, and all were freely trusted; besides, many were scored down on the list without having been consulted or seen; and as a natural and inevitable result, the establishment was soon

carrying an immense delinquent list, and suffering a large accumulation of unpaid bills for labor, materials, rent, and contingent expenses.

Added to these untoward circumstances was the damaging knowledge that the Johnsonian policy was not to succeed. The reconstruction measures went on without interruption. The acting president was hemmed in on all sides by what was known as the "radicals." The tenure-of-office act virtually took away from him the appointing power by denying him the right to make arbitrary removals. When the president's patronage was thus shorn off, his influence and prestige fell with it, and he was shortly after put on the defensive by articles of impeachment.

It was only natural that many of the liberals should quietly slide back to a more solid base; and that the democracy, hopelessly defeated, would experience more or less demoralization in their ranks. Mr. Birdsall, finding the pecuniary results of his labors unsatisfactory, after the first year, gave way to a young man named Wilson, of whom little seems to be known, and who occupied the editorial chair but a short time, and with not very satisfactory results. Some time later in the year 1867 David R. Waters, a former citizen of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, but then a resident of Aledo, and a law partner of Hon. Charles M. Harris, of Oquawka, took the management of the "Press." He was a man of fine abilities in many directions. In temperament he was nervous, and possibly a little too sanguine for a safe business man; and a little too radical for the political success of a minority party. He was, however, a fully reliable democrat, an able political writer and speaker, and a faithful worker for the cause he had espoused. His zeal for his own cause, and his abhorrence of the supposed errors of his opponents, seemed to lead him sometimes into business and even social discriminations among those he came in contact with. The business up to about the beginning of the year 1868 had been done in a low, but roomy building that had been occupied during and before the war by Mr. Edwards as a dry goods merchant. It stood north of the Aledo house and on nearly the site now occupied by I. N. Edwards' ice-house; it was afterward removed to Fifth street, on the south side, between Walnut street and College avenue, on the second floor of a frame building owned and then occupied by A. M. Byers with the first bank in Aledo. Here Mr. Waters completed his labors not long after April 1, 1869, when it was sold by the company to John Geiger, of Aledo, for \$800; who immediately added to the materials, which were barely sufficient to issue the newspaper, a carefully-selected little job office, at a cost of about \$500. This outlay, timely made, would have avoided one great source of financial weak-



ness in the "Press," and with all its reverses might have kept it at least self-sustaining, as its successors have been ever since.

The new proprietor, recognizing the fact that the "Press," notwithstanding its able editorial management, had closed out a financial failure, and was virtually a pauper, believed that public confidence could sooner be secured by starting a new paper, with a title more expressive of its character and objects; and with this view he made no attempt to resurrect the shattered fortunes of the "Press," but April 13, 1869, issued the first number of "The Democratic Banner." The few years that had now passed since the war, had begun to temper its ascerbities, and with the better feelings and better facilities the new venture received a fair share of remunerative business. It was conducted a while longer in Byer's building, and afterward a small frame building on College avenue, 18×36 feet in size, was purchased of Jacob Cool, the same that, with its open, red-trimmed front, is now used for a primary school; to this place the office was removed, where it remained until some time in the autumn of 1872.

The "Banner" during this time held the leading principles and sentiments of the old school democracy; and frequently found occasion to dissent from the new methods and policies propounded by platforms and leaders of the times. The editor had, in 1872, voted alone in the state convention, against a resolution favoring the nomination of Horace Greeley. And when afterward the nomination was made by the national convention, he denounced both the nomination and the nominee, without reserve, as being unfit, whether viewed in the light of principle or of policy.

The nomination was, however, accepted all over the Union. Here in Mercer county, besides the remnant of liberal republicans that had not returned to their old home, there was an informal, unorganized, intangible, but omnipresent little party, then sometimes known as grangers. This fugitive gypsy body, as well as the liberals, were enthusiastic adherents to Horace Greeley. [Mistake: grangers didn't spring up till spring of 1873.—Ricker]. And by their ardent proffers of material, as well as moral support, O. P. Arthur was induced to make purchase of the "Banner" office, and he took possession early in July 1872. He was a young man but lately from the Monmouth College, and at this time was a law student in the office of Bassett & Connell. He had energy and learning, and a good order of talent; and withal could give to the "great commoner" a conscientious support. The "Banner" was still conducted as a democratic organ, and supported democratic men and measures. The business was for awhile conducted at the little red front building, but was shortly after removed

to Seventh street, and afterward to Richey Brother's old brick building on Fifth street, east of the Aledo house.

Some time after the defeat of Greeley at the approach of the depression of 1873, the greenback party began to materialize; and besides the political gypsies of the country, many from each of the established parties, from one cause and another, arising mostly out of the pressure of the times, gave adherence and active support to the new party. The "Banner" supported the movement with such vigor that the party promised at one time to become at least second in the county in point of numbers. Arthur was a leader of acknowledged influence. About this time he changed slightly the name of the paper. Dropping the word "Democratic," the title thereafter was "The Aledo Banner." By trenchant articles on the financial abuses of both parties, by public speeches and ingenuous enterprises for increasing his circulation, he brought its reading patronage at one time nearly, if not quite, up to that of the old established "Aledo Record."

But reverses came, or rather culminated. Arthur was young and without experience or capital. His dash and talent brought him admirers and even friends; but only feeble and dilatory material support. Had he known the hollowness of proffered patronage he would never have been tempted into the uncertain field of party politics. He had not then read, with proper interpretation, the history and achievements of Col. Mulberry Sellers, or he would not have leaned on the broken reeds that failed him when the hour of need came.

The net earnings of the "Banner" office were, however, considerable, and from his surplus Arthur added largely to the material of the establishment. But in his confidence he had married a wife; and among the unseen calamities of all lives, it happened that his young wife shortly after took sick of a lingering and incurable disease. Personal distraction from business, and large continued expenses, deprived him of the means of a thorough prosecution of his work; and on his invitation, about June 1, 1877, John Geiger was associated with him, and as an equal partner and editor-in-chief changed the paper once more to a straight democratic organ. Arthur's wife died in the ensuing winter; and about May 1, 1878, he sold his remaining half of the office to John Geiger, who again became sole owner of the paper he had established nine years before. Arthur, after settling up his accounts and arranging his financial affairs, went to Colorado, where he has since held several important trusts and established himself in a very respectable and fairly lucrative law practice.

When the "Banner" returned to its original owner, a commodious building was purchased for it on College avenue, where the paper was



conducted to the end of its checkered life, which the reader will be pleased to listen briefly to.

During the heated campaign of 1878 for some cause, never fully declared, but generally understood here, Rev. P. F. Warner, who had formerly made some favorable acquaintances here as a preacher of the Congregational church, came on several occasions and offered to buy out the "Banner" office and run it as an independent paper. Geiger having bought the office only with a view of closing up its affairs honorably, now sold to Mr. Warner, reserving one column for the use of the democratic campaign not yet closed; and on September 20, 1878, the new proprietor took the chair. He was a graduate of Yale College. He had considerable literary ability; wrote fine essays on theological and moral subjects for the pulpit, and wrote with some force and elegance on political topics so far as he had made acquaintance with them. But he was unacquainted with the details of newspaper making, and was obliged to trust much to employés. He was a good collector and financial manager, and while he held the democratic support turned over to him, the business was prosperous.

But some time in the next year, either with a view of supplanting the "Record" office as an organ, or from some abnormal working of a political conscience, he gave up the independent position, and came out a full fledged republican.

While this movement gave pleasure to some republicans that were not wholly satisfied with the "Record," it gave displeasure to a great number of democratic supporters, who did not think themselves dealt with in entirely good faith. Slowly many of these dropped out, while no material strength was drawn from the other political party.

After the presidential campaign of 1880 had so far developed as to give the democrats hopes of carrying the national election, John Geiger was again solicited to give the party a campaign newspaper. To this he assented, but the season was already advanced, and the enterprise would not admit of delay, nor of an expensive outfit. R. Russell had a neat little job office over W. H. Holmes' hardware store on the avenue. To this was added the old press of the Woodhull enterprise, and a small collection of good material bought of one Remington, who had some time before conducted a little "snide" paper in the professed interest of the local republicans, but really for his bread; and a few more were obtained from L. F. Jobusch, Jr., who, then only a lad, after experimenting a while with a toy press, started a sheet called the "Democratic Press," which, however, deserves only to be mentioned as the visionary scheme of a boy, abandoned for want of

means to sustain, or ability to conduct it. He has, however, since occupied an advantageous position of society editor on Carl Pretzel's paper in Chicago. He is a plausible and genial young man. With these fragments added to Russell's job materials, the paper was started about the second week in July; a seven-column folio, to run six months, for \$1 per copy. A circulation of about 500 was gathered up, and the enterprise about paid the expenses, as expected. As the first of January drew near, a strong wish from different parts of the county was expressed that the paper now so nearly established and the party so finely organized should not be separated; but that with the present basis we should go on and establish a permanent organ for the party in Mercer county. Other new materials were promptly purchased, and the paper which was called "The Aledo Democrat," was enlarged to an eight-column, and the first number issued in January, at the close of the campaign edition.

About or near June 1, 1881, the proprietor of the "Democrat" associated with himself R. Russell and George M. Eames, two sober, industrious young men of Aledo, well skilled in newspaper and job printing; and the new firm of Geiger, Russell & Eames bought out the old "Banner" materials from Mr. Warner, and adding them to the other materials of the "Democrat," moved all into the "Banner" building, and the "Banner" then ended its singular career and disappeared, Mr. Warner, its last owner, making another venture in Havana, Illinois.

Few newspapers in the world have had so singular a history as the "Banner." It is doubtful whether ever before any political paper has gone the rounds, and alternately advocated the tenets of all parties and factions, and repeated its original position, and made the entire cycle in twelve years, and yet received liberal support in nearly all its tortuous course. It proves that our people's minds are flexible; and further, that a newspaper is valued more for its news and intelligence and advertising facilities than for its political platform.

In the month of August, 1881, Mr. Russell, of the "Democrat," being offered an advantageous position at Kansas City, sold his interest to the senior partner; and on the first of October so much was transferred to Mr. Eames as to make him an equal partner, and the firm name became Geiger & Eames. The paper is in a fairly prosperous condition; is still democratic, but, as heretofore, liberal, and not trammelled by platforms or the opinions of leaders, and generally finds sufficient scope and liberty within the expansive and elastic folds of its alma mater.



## ALED0 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The first school taught in Aledo was by J. E. Harroun, but in what building we cannot learn. This was during the winter of 1856-7. In the following winter Rev. Bigger opened a school in his residence, at the then south end of College avenue, and known as the Dr. Woods house. It is now the property of E. L. Wolff, and has been thoroughly overhauled and refitted, and is occupied as a parsonage by Rev. Thomas Stephenson of the first Presbyterian church. In the spring of 1857, the new school-building, now the court-house, was occupied, and Frank Herdman was employed in the capacity of assistant. Mr. H. had no department under his charge, as in the graded system of the present day, but occupied a recitation room, the classes leaving Mr. Bigger's room at stated hours for recitation. We remember Frank as a fine elocutionist, and that his methods of teaching were then far in advance of the age. Mr. Bigger was a man of finished education, and proved himself a good and thorough teacher.

During the two following winters the schools were taught by Mr. Baird and wife of New York. They were earnest Methodists, and made many friends here, especially among the membership of that church. The next term was taught by Mr. Pinkerton, and Misses Morgan, Harris and Shutledge, all of Pennsylvania. Joseph McCoy, Mrs. A. M. Young, and Miss Madden, the latter of Monmouth, taught in the winter of 1861-2. The two former still reside in Aledo.

During the next year we cannot learn who taught the school, except that Mr. McCoy was principal. About this time a new school building was contracted for and erected; the one until then used having been refused by the school board, from the contractors or builders, on account of some alleged fault in its erection. It was taken by the proprietors of the town, and by them sold to the county at a nominal figure, and has ever since been used as a court-house. School opened in the new building, in block 55, and a part of the one now used, in the fall of 1863, with Mr. McKay Young, Wm. N. Graham, and Miss Eva Marquis as teachers. Mr. Young is the present police magistrate of Aledo, and Mr. Graham is cashier of the Farmers' Bank. The following year Sennit Kirk was principal and Miss Libbie Perkins was one of his assistants. James McMillen presided in 1865-6, assisted by Mr. Pardee, Mrs. Lizzie Porter, wife of John Porter, of the "Record," and Miss Nettie Smith. The latter resigned during the term and Anna McMillen filled the vacancy. During the latter year an addition was erected to the school-house, giving six large class rooms and one recitation room. The entire building is of frame, two low stories in height; arranged with some view to convenience but no attention

paid to securing a proper ventilation. In 1866-7, Mr. Pardee was principal, assisted by Mrs. Porter, Miss M. M. Burbank, now Mrs. Wilson, of Keene, New Hampshire, and Miss Emma Stevens, now Mrs. J. H. Abercrombie, of Aledo. J. E. Harroun was principal the following year. Mr. H. was one of the leading educators of our county, and as such, we give elsewhere a brief sketch of his life, so far as it pertains to this history. Mrs. Mary Walker, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. A. M. Young, Misses M. M. Burbank, Emma Stevens, and Anna Maury, were teachers in 1868-9. The latter is now Mrs. Wm. Bunting, of David City, Nebraska. In 1869-70, Sylvanus B. Atwater, now of Greene township, presided, assisted by Miss A. E. Frazier, now county superintendent of schools, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Young, Misses Eva and Jennie Marquis, and Ella Gailey. C. W. Sherman was principal in 1870, 1871-2, two terms, assisted by Mrs. Young, and Misses Amanda and Tilla Frazier, Miss Burbank, and Miss Belle McCoy, now Mrs. W. L. Duncan, both terms, and Miss Thornton the first term, or a part of it. Mr. Sherman was at that time a local preacher in the Methodist church, but after his work as a teacher ended here, he entered the itineracy, but has since severed his connection with the church and is now a traveling evangelist.

A. U. Barler (now deceased), was principal for three terms, beginning in the fall of 1872 and ending in the spring of 1875. Assistants same as the last year except that Miss Barcroft succeeded Miss Burbank. Second term Misses Mollie Walker, Ella Gailey, Edith Pruyn, N. A. Campbell, Louisa Merryman and Mrs. Comfort were employed as assistants. Mrs. Comfort and Miss Pruyn resigned early in the term, Miss Marie Hebbard and Miss Olivia Pattison being employed to fill the vacancies.

Alex. Stephens, of Washington, Iowa, was elected principal in 1875, and still holds that position. A full account of his school work will be found in a brief sketch of his life, hereto appended. His assistants the first year were: Misses Ella Gailey, N. A. Campbell, Marie Hebbard, Blanche Rutledge, Tilla Frazier and Millie E. Reed, latter of Monmouth. A new department was added to the school this year, and the school-building not being large enough, a small building about one block distant, on the east side of College avenue, was leased and fitted up for a school-room. A year or two prior to this a tax was authorized, levied and collected, for the purpose of building additional room, but until 1881, the citizens could never agree upon a location, although the question was submitted to them nearly every year. The increase of the enrollment from year to year rendered more departments and more room necessary, and the upper floor of a brick building south of



the railroad was leased and fitted up so that it could be used, but the rooms were poorly arranged, and were at the best but a poor excuse and make-shift for a village whose greatest pride is in her churches and her public schools.

Assistants for the following years were:

1876-7.—Miss N. A. Campbell, Blanche Rutledge, Ella M. Gailey, Marie Hebbard, Emma Crawford, Tilla Frazier, Camilla Reed.

1877-8.—Same as above, except that Misses M. J. Thomas and Lettie Long took the places of Misses Rutledge and Frazier.

1878-9.—Misses Campbell, Rutledge, Gailey, Crawford, Hebbard and Reed, and Mrs. M. J. Waterman, and Mrs. T. H. Ennis. The latter only taught three months and was succeeded by Miss N. A. Wilson.

1879-80.—Misses Campbell, Gailey, Hebbard, Cora D. Harvey, Zerie Miller, May I. Allen, Mrs. Waterman, and Mrs. M. J. Taylor.

1880-81.—Mr. K. M. Whitham, Misses Campbell, Rutledge, Miller, Frazier, Allen, Mrs. A. M. Hall, Mrs. Waterman.

At the term of 1880-81, K. M. Whitham was employed as teacher of the grammar department, a position he has since well filled, and which he will doubtless fill during the next term. He is a young man of more than average ability, and should he devote his life to the profession, would make a place for himself among the best educators of the land. He is utilizing his vacations by reading law in the office of L. D. Holmes, and this profession may prove more attractive than that of teaching.

In the fall of 1881 the course of study was advanced to include Latin, German, geometry, trigonometry and book-keeping, and Miss Mary E. Turnbull, of Monmouth, was employed as teacher of these branches and assistant principal, a position which she was well qualified to fill and the duties of which she discharged in an eminently satisfactory manner.

The teachers for the past term were: Alex. Stephens, principal; Miss Mary E. Turnbull, assistant; K. M. Whitham, grammar department; Miss Campbell, fourth intermediate; Miss Rutledge, third intermediate; Miss Zerie Miller, second intermediate; Mrs. A. M. Hall, first intermediate; and the Misses Mary I. Allen and Tillie Matthews, primary departments.

Enrollment for school year 1881-2, 460. The school is fitted up with maps, globes and other apparatus; a human skeleton and anatomical charts have been added recently, and also a collection of insects and other zoological specimens.

The first students graduated were in the class of 1878, and were the following: Sadie Eames, Clarence Fargo, Una Evans, Hilma Lundblad, Leota Hause, Norma Pepper, Mamie Cunningham.

1879: Zerie Miller, Emma Ives, O. T. Moore, Lizzie Hause, Retta Galloway, Fred. Hollenback, L. W. Thompson, Harvey S. Pyles, Will. H. Morrison, Cassie Thompson, Kittie Lynch.

1880: Mattie Evans, Fannie Porter, Grace Pitts, Mable Pepper, Rosa Wolff, Hulda Lundblad, Will McKenney, Lou. L. Walker, Horace Edwards.

1881: Louie Wright, Georgia Cole, Flora Harvey, Eda Hudson, Minnie Leet, Lizzie Porter, Alma Bickett, Zoe McCoy, Logan Stephens, Robert McKinney, John McKinney, Frank Edwards, Fred Strong, Amos Cole, George Strong, Frank Evans.

Miss Zerie Miller, one of the teachers above mentioned, is worthy of special mention, as she is a graduate of the school in which she has so long held her present position. The circumstances of her widowed mother were such that an academic or collegiate course was entirely out of the question, but she early set to work to fit herself for teaching, and by untiring labor and a happy tact in making the most of the advantages within her reach, she has attained a success beyond her brightest anticipations.

Miss May I. Allen, who has taught one of the primary departments for the past three years, resides in Warren county, adjoining the Mercer line. Her education has been liberal, and she is peculiarly fitted in nature and disposition for the position. She is the friend, playmate and companion of the little ones under her charge, and has not only won their hearts, but the esteem of their parents, and her pupils have ever shown a marked and rapid degree of advancement.

Misses Rutledge and Campbell have long held positions and have proven excellent teachers. Mrs. Hall has just closed her second term in a most satisfactory manner, while Miss Matthews, in her single term, has well earned the esteem of the school patrons.

In 1881, by vote of the people, the directors were authorized to borrow money to build additional school-buildings, to levy a tax to repay the same, and block 101, south of the railroad, was selected and purchased for a school site. Dissatisfied parties procured an injunction against building there, which, though not sustained in the courts, delayed the work until too late to build last year. In the spring of this year (1882), a petition signed by over 200 of the voters of the district, was presented to the directors asking them to call an election to vote upon the question of rescinding the vote selecting block 101 as a school site, and authorizing the erection of a building large enough to



accommodate the entire district, upon block 55, the present school site. The election was held, and both propositions carried by decisive majorities. Another election was held upon the question of purchasing the east half of the block, but this was defeated. The directors are now receiving bids for the erection of a building of which the following, compiled from the plans and specifications, is a description, and is an extract from an article prepared by the writer and published in the Aledo "Record" of July 5, 1882: The building is to be of brick, with stone foundation, 73 feet 10 inches by 65 feet 6 inches on the ground, with vestibule on east and west sides each 33 feet by 10 feet 5 inches, and on the south 19 feet by 5 feet 9 inches, the two former running to top of building, the latter only to top of basement. In the basement will be two class-rooms, each  $31 \times 23$  feet, with ceiling 10 feet 2 inches high; two fuel and storage rooms, two large furnaces for heating, closets, halls, stairways, etc. The first and second floors will each contain four class-rooms, two  $32 \times 23$  feet each and two  $31 \times 23$  feet each. The second floor will contain in addition a recitation room over north hall  $15 \times 17$  feet, and principal's reception room and apparatus room over east hall. The ceilings on both floors will be 13 feet high. Separate doors, halls, stairways and closets are provided for boys and girls, two closets for the pupils and one for the teacher connected with each room. Ample ventilation of the most approved kind is provided for, in the shape of cold and foul air ducts. Doors and windows are to be stone capped. The halls are provided with huge folding or double doors, opening either out or in. A large belfry and cupola, with iron coping on the roof, completes the description. The specifications require the best of work and the use of the very best material. The floors are to be of southern yellow pine, of boards not more than 4 inches in width. Those of the two upper floors are to be made double, the inner one being covered with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches of mortar, for the purpose of deadening the sound. The floors do not lie directly upon the joists, as in ordinary buildings; the latter are crossed with furring two inches square, and the floors laid on these, lengthwise with the joists. The furnace rooms are to be floored and covered with brick. All rooms are to be provided with blackboards on two walls, to be made of slate from a Pennsylvania quarry, to be in slabs  $7 \times 4$  feet in size and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in thickness, to be bedded in flush with plastering and just above the wainscoting. The specifications certainly call for one of the best arranged school-buildings in western Illinois, one of which any community may well feel proud; just what the schools of Aledo deserve and what the district needs.

## PROF. ALEX. STEPHENS.

The subject of this sketch was born December 16, 1840, in Perry county, Pennsylvania, and was the second child of William L. and Margaret (Elliott) Stephens, and was reared on his father's farm until the age of fifteen years, when he commenced a course at the Marketville academy in the summers and teaching during the winters. He graduated in 1856, and for the next two years had charge of the mathematical department of that institution.

In 1859 he entered Bloomfield college, in the same county, and completed the classical course in 1862. He then commenced the study of medicine, but, for what he deemed good reasons, abandoned it at the end of six months, and in the fall of 1863 entered the State Normal school, where he spent a year in special training for a teacher. He taught at various points in his native state until 1872, when he emigrated to Washington, Iowa, and accepted the principalship of the South Ward school, which he held until 1875, assisting also in the conduct of the county Normal school. In the latter year he moved to Aledo and took charge of the public schools as principal, a position he has held until the present time, and which he has been offered for the coming term. During his administration the standard improvement in the school has been greatly advanced, and it now ranks among the best in the state; has risen high in the favor of the people, and of his colaborers in the profession, and has secured a substantial and enduring reputation as an educator. He is of a genial, kindly disposition, earnest and thorough in any work he undertakes, and a man calculated not only to make friends, but also to keep them.

In 1865 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Leonard. They have but one child, Logan, now in his sixteenth year. They have here a commodious and well furnished residence where they are ever pleased to meet any and all of their hosts of friends, and are never happier than in dispensing their hospitality.

The graduates of the school give to Prof. Stephens the utmost credit and veneration for his kindly direction and assistance during their school days, and are ever warm in their expressions of gratitude and appreciation.

The work accomplished by him in and for the Aledo public schools is outlined in the following extract from a report of the last commencement by the writer of this sketch, and published in the Aledo "Record" of May 24, 1882. It speaks for itself: "For the school year of 1875 and 1876 the enrollment was 360; last year it was 470. During the first there were 5,679 days of absence, last year but 1,832; cases of tardiness first year 1,708, last year only 45; neither absent or tardy



first year 12, last year 123; over forty per cent failed to pass for advancement the first year, less than twenty per cent failed last year; per cent of punctuality first year eighty, last year ninety-nine and ninety-nine one-hundredths. We do not believe that there is another school in the state that can show such a record as this last item. And punctuality means nine o'clock in the morning and one o'clock in the afternoon, not one or two minutes after these hours. There have now been fifty-two certificates of graduation issued within the past five years. Of those holding them sixteen are now or have been teaching, and six hold first grade certificates from the county superintendent. The certificates are for the scientific course, which includes orthography, reading, penmanship, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, United States history, zoology, botany, natural philosophy, algebra, composition, civil government, and word analysis. We have good reasons to be proud of our schools, proud of our principal, proud of his assistants, and proud of the graduates. We believe that the Aledo public schools equal, if they do not surpass any in the state."

J. E. HARROUN.

Prominent among the educators of Mercer county was J. E. Harroun, and he merits a place in our history.

Joseph Elliott Harroun was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania. He removed when a young man to Galesburg, Illinois, and entered Lombard University, from whence he came to Mercer county, in 1853, teaching school at the Pryne school-house, two miles east of New Boston, the winter of that year. In March, 1855, he married Miss Margaret A., daughter of William Willits, of New Boston township, and removed to Wapello, Iowa, where he edited the "Wapello Intelligencer," for some months. In the spring of 1856 he came back to Mercer county, locating in Aledo, where he erected the first building, in which he opened and kept the first boarding-house. He was the first postmaster of Aledo, and it is said that he carried the mail around in his hat. He taught the first school in the village, in the winter of that year, and held for some years the office of town clerk. In 1858 he was elected county superintendent of schools, and proved one of the best and most efficient officers that have ever filled that position. During his term of two years he visited every school district in the county, ninety in all, giving all the schools a personal supervision; helping and advising the teachers; making a suggestion here and there, but always in a kindly spirit, and with no air of dictation. He was the warm friend and supporter of the earnest teacher, but had little patience with those who taught merely to "fill in the time." He

also held institutes and gave lectures, and was prominently connected with the county normals and institutes. He introduced the first orrery and telurian ever in the county, and carried them with him in his school visits, explaining their workings to each school. He spoke in an easy, happy manner, that won and held the attention of pupils. His methods and ideas were all new, and by some deemed peculiar; but if so, it was only that they were in advance of the times, as they have since been adopted and made an integral part of our school system as relates to methods of teaching. He was one of the first teachers in the county to attempt to impart instruction orally, and insisted that his pupils should study the meaning of their lesson, rather than the words.

His term of service as superintendent was of great benefit to the schools of the county, and he is entitled to all the more credit for his labors when we remember that at that time there was no salary to the office.

In 1858 Mr. Harroun removed to a new farm he was opening three and one-half miles southeast of Aledo, where he resided until about two years ago. During that time he taught school a part of the time, at Gingle's corners, Perryton township; Freer's school-house, and in his home district, Mercer township; and at Sunbeam; in all, nine terms. In 1876 he taught in New Boston.

While farming he paid considerable attention to the improvement of stock, making short-horn cattle a specialty, and his herd was frequently exhibited at our county fairs, where it always attracted attention. He was for years prominently connected with the agricultural board, serving as vice-president and secretary for six years. He took an active part in the removal of the fairs from Millersburg to Aledo, and in purchasing and fitting up the new grounds.

In 1880 he received the appointment of clerk of the district court of Cassia county, Idaho Territory, and selling his farm he removed to Albion, in that country, where he still resides. He is now probate judge and deputy clerk of the district court of that county.

He was a member of the 102d Ill. Vol. Inf., in the late war, enlisting as a private but soon rising to the rank of orderly sergeant, and being commissioned lieutenant of his company prior to the close of his term of service. He participated in the marches, engagements, and manifold trials incident to army life in connection with his regiment.

He is the father of six children, viz.: Adella T., born February 12, 1856; married February 22, 1876, to Sanford M. Huston; now resides at Geneva, Nebraska. Dora C., born July 30, 1858; married



March 10, 1880, to Govert H. Stephens, of Sunbeam, Mercer county, where they still reside. Lulu M., born June 6, 1861; died July 14, 1878, in Aledo. William Corwin, born May 21, 1866; resides with his parents at Albion. Ada, born October 12, 1868; died December 22, 1868. Jessie A., born October 31, 1870; resides with her parents.

Mr. Harroun and his family have many warm friends yet in this county. Mrs. H. was raised here, and they still feel a deep interest in all pertaining to their old home, and we doubt not will be among the most eager readers of this history.

#### THE SEAT OF JUSTICE.

By the act of the legislature, of January 31, 1835, creating the county of Mercer, New Boston was designated as the "temporary county seat"; and in 1837 an act was passed appointing William McMurtry, of Knox county; Thomas Spragins, of Jo Daviess; and John S. Stephenson, of Ogle, commissioners to select a permanent location. They selected Millersburg as the site, making their report September 15, 1837, which was signed by the last two named. John and Sarah Miller donated the amount of land required by the act, making their deed therefor December 18, 1837.

This decision was not satisfactory to the citizens of the west side of the county, and in 1839 they secured an act authorizing an election in April of that year, to vote for or against removing the county seat to New Boston, which, however, resulted in favor of retaining the "seat" at Millersburg.

Here a two-story frame court-house was built, and a stone jail; but the latter was of little use in holding such prisoners as desired to gain their freedom, for they could, and frequently did, dig out the soft mortar and remove stones enough to gain a safe and easy egress. We remember when a boy of being shown a hole in the gable of the building through which a prisoner had recently made escape from "durance vile." To render the building more secure the county commissioners had it lined throughout with three-inch oak plank, held in place by three-cornered studs in the angles, these being driven full of nails to prevent their being cut into.

Agitation was still kept up, and another board of commissioners was secured, who again decided in favor of Millersburg. In 1847, however, another election was held, and resulted in 396 votes for Keithsburg, 340 for New Boston, and 210 for Millersburg, Keithsburg carrying off the prize. Land was again donated, a substantial brick court-house erected, and the county archives removed to the new location. After the removal of the county seat from Millersburg, the

court-house, jail, public square, and considerable adjoining land was purchased by Mr. H. W. Thornton, who still resides on the outskirts of the village, and to whom we are indebted for a portion of this history. The jail was torn down and the material put to other uses. The court-house was removed to a lot near the then center of the village, and has for many years been used as a wagonmaker's shop.

Keithsburg wore the laurels for nearly ten years, when another election was held, August 3, 1857, and by a vote of 1,479 to 549 the people decided to remove the county seat to Aledo, which was situated almost in the center of the rapidly growing county. Land and money were donated, a building was ready for the reception of the officers and the records, and the work of removal was quickly accomplished.

For some time court was held in a building erected for a school-house, but being unfit for that purpose, was sold to the county for a nominal sum for a court-house, and is still so used. It is not well adapted to the purpose, being illy-ventilated, and positively unhealthy, and the feeling is growing in the county that a new building is a necessity, and it will doubtless be erected at no distant day upon the block donated for that purpose. A commodious and substantial jail was erected in 1869, and a fire-proof building for the county offices in 1873. The latter, while perhaps a safe place to keep the records, is a very uncomfortable place to work in, either winter or summer, owing to poor ventilation. It stands upon Court-House square, and the jail is in the block immediately west of it.

The old court-house at Keithsburg has become the property of the town and is known as the Opera-house, it being fitted up with stage and scenery.

#### CHURCHES.

*Presbyterian Church.*—The first organization of this church was effected November 10, 1856, in a school-house west of Aledo, which was at that time known as "the mile school-house."

The ministers who presided over and perfected the organization were Rev. Wm. Townley and Rev. John H. Nevius.

The officers who were then elected were : elders, Messrs. Wm. W. McCandless and Edgar Allen ; deacon, Mr. Vanbuskirk ; trustees, Messrs. Simon Macy, John McKee, and John S. Thompson.

This congregation for some time after its organization, worshiped in the same old school-house, and after leaving it, occupied a room in Dr. Macy's drug store building, which was used for a private school, and which stood upon the lot now occupied by the residence of Mrs. Jane Strother. Some time about the year 1857, they worshiped in another



school-room, where Dr. Townley taught a select or private school. The same house is now occupied as a dwelling by F. A. Hollenbeck, in the west part of Aledo. Services were held in the above room until 1865, when the congregation fitted up the chapel room of a college that was under the care of the Presbytery, and which was situated in the south part of the town. This room was occupied by them as a place of worship until 1871, from which time, until the building they now occupy was finished, they worshiped in the house of the Methodist brethren. The first pastor of the church was Rev. Samuel Linn, who continued in charge until the spring of 1861, when he was succeeded by Rev. W. W. Williams, formerly of Ohio. It was during the pastorate of Mr. Williams the chapel room spoken of before was fitted up for worship, and the prosperity of the congregation at that time, and the means of advancement and growth, were largely due to the energy of Thos. Candor, familiarly known as "Father Candor," a man of untiring zeal and christian devotion; he died in 1871. Mr. Williams remained in charge of the congregation till the fall of 1866, when he was succeeded by Rev. John S. Loots, who remained nearly three years, when he resigned, was released by the Presbytery, and was succeeded by Rev. F. A. Shearer in the winter of 1868 and 1869. Dr. Shearer was succeeded by Rev. Samuel T. Davis, in 1875, who remained about two years and was succeeded by Rev. Robt. Edgar, who remained with the congregation about three years, when, by his own request, he was released by the Presbytery. The congregation is large and in a prosperous condition. They have a large and handsome place of worship, which cost about \$6,000. There are only two surviving members of the original organization, Mrs. Amanda M. Macy and Mrs. Martha Detwiler.

*United Presbyterian Church.*—In the year 1853 or 1854, Rev. Matthew Bigger preached occasionally to a few members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church, living in Millersburg township, Mercer county, Illinois. Services were generally held at the house of Samuel Carnahan, and sometimes in a school-house near his place. An organization was effected in the year 1855 by the election of Samuel Carnahan, Sr., and William Haverhill, as ruling elders.

The first pastor was the Rev. D. C. Cochran, who was installed Nov. 9, 1856, and continued with the congregation as pastor for about two years. The records show that five persons were received into membership by certificate during the first pastorate. In the year 1856 the village of Aledo was laid out, and the name of the congregation was soon changed from "Millersburg" to that of "Aledo." Near the time that the first pastor was released, the Rev. Matthew Bigger,

pastor of Pope creek congregation, now Sunbeam, removed to Aledo with his family, and preached "statedly" as supply to the Aledo congregation. During his labors the Sabbath school was organized and W. D. Henderson was the first superintendent.

John S. Paxton and W. D. Henderson were installed as ruling elders February 12, 1859. Mrs. Warwick, wife of J. M. Warwick, was the first person received into the Aledo congregation, upon profession of faith, and her children the first baptised.

Rev. Matthew Bigger entered the army during the war of the rebellion as chaplain of the 50th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. After the close of the war he entered the active work of the ministry, in which he continued till his death at Bushnell, Illinois, in December, 1873. The second pastor was Rev. J. R. McCallister, who was installed in December, 1862.

Shortly after the above date a new church building was erected at a cost of about \$2,400. This building was afterward sold to, and is now in use by, the Swedish Lutheran church, of Aledo. December 10, 1867, Mr. McCallister was released from his pastorate by Presbytery.

The third pastor was Rev. A. W. Clokey, who was installed December 22, 1868, and released by Presbytery June 11, 1872. The fourth and present pastor is Rev. T. B. Turnbull, who was installed April 16, 1873. A new church building was erected in 1876; it was completed for occupancy in the basement, the auditorium being unfinished, at a cost of \$8,689.12, when, on June 25, 1877, a tornado passed over the village of Aledo, blowing the tower of the new church building over upon the roof of the church, carrying with it to the ground about one-third of the main structure. The work of repairing was immediately begun, and was finished at a cost of about \$2,200. The church building is the finest in the county, being of frame work after the gothic style, and when completed and finally furnished will cost the congregation about \$15,000.

The actual membership of the congregation is about 140. The Sabbath school is large, under the superintendency of Dr. D. R. Johnston, formerly medical missionary to Egypt. The officers of the church at present are: elders, Stewart J. Frew, Alexander Rankin, Paul Black, Joseph Wallace, W. K. Fulton; trustees, Thomas Love, William B. Frew, J. F. Pyles. This church is in a flourishing condition, and out of debt.

*Methodist Episcopal Church*—Was organized in the spring of 1857 by Rev. J. Shelton, then traveling Camden (now Milan) circuit. In the fall of 1857 Aledo was connected with Millersburg circuit, and D. A. Faulkenburg appointed as pastor. The subsequent appointments



to the Millersburg circuit while Aledo was connected with Millersburg were as follows: In 1858, L. P. Crouch; in 1859, L. P. Crouch; in 1860, B. E. Kaufman; in 1861, J. D. Taylor; in 1862, J. D. Taylor; in 1863, G. C. Woodruff; in 1864, J. D. Taylor. In 1865, Aledo first appears as an independent charge, with M. D. Heckard as pastor. Since then the appointments to Aledo have been as follows: In 1866, A. P. Hull; 1867 and 1868, F. Smith; 1869, G. I. Bailey; 1870, G. I. Bailey; 1871, M. Spurlock; 1872, M. Spurlock; 1873, the same; 1874, M. C. Bowlin; 1875, the same; 1876 and 1877, W. M. Collins; 1878 and 1879, A. R. Morgan; 1880, W. McPheeters; 1881, J. G. Evans.

In 1862, under the administration of J. D. Taylor, the society purchased a half interest in the Free Presbyterian church, and in 1865 the Free Presbyterians sold their remaining interest in the building to the Methodists. The society owns a good parsonage. The membership now numbers 220, and the Aledo Methodist Episcopal church is, and has been for years the most prosperous Methodist church in the county. It is regarded as one of the most pleasant stations in the conference. When the society was organized in 1857, J. P. McEwen was appointed leader. The additional members were: Mary McEwen, Mary M. Cool, — Criss, Mr. Hawkins, Mrs. Hawkins, Elizabeth Baxter, Charles Moore, Mrs. Moore.

*Aledo Baptist Church.*—The first organization of this church in Aledo took place January 5, 1867, with twelve members constituting the congregation. The meeting was presided over by Rev. J. C. Post, who remained in charge of the congregation until October, 1867, when his term expired. The officers of the original organization were as follows: clerk, Chas. M. Kay; trustees, Wm. B. Crapnel, C. M. Kay, J. B. Taliafero, Moses White, Aaron P. Shafer, Robert H. Day, Aaron Patterson. Mr. Post was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Whitehead, who was called by the congregation January 1, 1868, and remained in charge until January 19, 1869. On September 11, 1870, a call was extended to Rev. D. G. Zook, who took charge of the congregation and remained until August 2, 1873, when he resigned. Mr. Zook was succeeded by Rev. O. W. Van Osdel, who was called December 4, 1875, and remained till October 30, 1878, when he resigned and was released March 31, 1880. A call was extended to Rev. M. D. Murdock, who accepted and remained with the congregation till January 5, 1881, when the present pastor, Rev. J. T. Hoyer, was called. For some years prior to 1874 the congregation worshiped in private houses, holding covenant and prayer meetings. About this year steps were taken leading to the erection of the handsome place of worship they now occupy (which was dedicated December 5, 1875), at a cost of

about \$3,500. Much credit is due to a few members of this church, who furnished a great part of the means for the building. As the church was comparatively poor, the burden fell upon the few. In 1877 the congregation also built a fine parsonage, at a cost of about \$1,500. The congregation now numbers about eighty-five members. The sabbath school is large and interesting, and is superintended by the pastor. Of the original members of the congregation only four remain.

*Congregational Church*—Was organized February 15, 1869. The officers of the original organization were: trustees, John S. Thompson, Horace E. Wright, and P. Roberts; clerk and treasurer, M. S. Boice. They built a house of worship, which was dedicated July 3, 1870, and cost about \$4,500. Rev. P. F. Warner was the first pastor, who continued in charge till the fall of 1872. The congregation was then without a pastor till the year 1874, when Rev. Robert Nurse was called and presided over the church till September, 1877. The congregation was again without a pastor, having only occasional supplies, till April, 1880, when the Rev. W. E. Smith was called, and who continued in charge until January 1, 1882, when he accepted a call from the First Congregational church of Canton, Illinois. The present officers of the church are: trustees, Joseph McCoy, Joseph Abercrombie and James H. Connell; deacons, Robert Woods and Wm. Pinkerton; treasurer, Wm. A. Lorimer; secretary and superintendent of sabbath school, Miss Laura McCoy; chorister, A. M. Woods; organist, Miss Aggie McCoy.

*Swedish Lutheran Church*—Was organized May 19, 1873, the Rev. A. Andreen presiding. There were about forty members who signed the church roll. The following officers were elected: trustees, J. O. Lundblad, P. Ringdall, Chas. Neiberg, and Samuel Andersen; deacons, C. Bjorkman, C. Runborn, John E. Swomsen, and O. G. Olsen. They were without a house of worship until March, 1877, when the old building of the United Presbyterian church was purchased for \$400, which they removed to the lot owned by them in the east part of town, and repaired and fitted up at a cost of about \$2,000. The first pastor was the Rev. A. Andreen, who was succeeded in July, 1873, by Rev. Nils Fersander, who was succeeded by Rev. Andreen again, who had charge of the congregation for about a year. September 8, 1878, a call was issued to the Rev. T. H. Wingquist, who took charge of the congregation in March, 1879, and is the present pastor. The congregation has at present about eighty members, is out of debt and prospering. Sabbath school exercises are held in English every Sabbath, under the direction of Mr. A. G. Johnson, superintendent.



*Episcopal Church.*—This church was first organized by a few members in 1870, and in the year 1878 was received under the care of the general church as a mission. The church since has so prospered that in February of the present year (1882) it was organized as an independent congregation. The church is entirely out of debt, and have a fine place of worship erected by the members at a cost of about \$4,000. The rectors in charge since 1870 have been: Revs. Chamberlain, Brown, Gates, Allen, and the present rector, Rev. Farrar, in the order named.

*Seventh Day Adventists.*—Early in the year of 1869, a Rev. R. F. Andrews, a minister of this denomination, delivered a series of lectures in Aledo upon the doctrines of his church, continuing his services until some time in March of that year. He made a number of converts to his doctrine, though no organization was effected at that time. A number of the followers of his faith, however, banded together, appointed a leader, and for nearly a year met for regular service in the court-house. \*

Mr. Andrews came back after being absent about a year, and commenced operations six miles south of Aledo, and sent for Rev. Mr. Whitham, who had embraced adventism, to help him in the work. The two brethren labored in this locality for some time, when an organization was effected, the brethren meeting in what is known as the "Marsh school-house." They held meetings regularly, with quite a large Sabbath-school as auxiliary, until within a few years past. Many members of the organization have moved away, weakening its strength; but the interest is still kept alive among the few, and the organization is still intact.

*Free Presbyterian church.*—There is now no such church. The necessity for such an organization ceased when slavery died. It was the outgrowth of that love of principle which burned in the hearts of those noble men who loved liberty and morality, and its cardinal doctrines as a church were founded upon the sternest ideas and principles of morality. As early as 1852 there were three organizations of this church in Mercer county; one in the "Carnahan neighborhood." The place was commonly known as "Nigger ridge," on account of the number of abolitionists living in the neighborhood. Another organization was in the "Kiddoo neighborhood," and the third at the McClure school-house. Messrs. Carnahan, McClure, and Kiddoo were the leaders in the movement in Mercer county, and are all now dead. There was a church built in the Carnahan district, and it is still standing, as is another church built at the same time in the Kiddoo district.

These three congregations united and built a church in Aledo,

about the year 1857, previous to which time Rev. Joseph R. Whitham, at present living east of Aledo, a zealous christian man, had preached to the three organizations in turn. After the union Rev. James S. Pogue was the pastor of the congregation until the close of the war, when the organization was dissolved and the church building sold to the Methodist Episcopal church, the members uniting with various churches in Aledo.

#### SOCIETIES.

*Aledo Lodge No. 252, A.F.A.M.*—The charter was granted under the signature of James Hibbard, Grand Master of the State of Illinois, and bears date of October 7, 1857. The charter members were William M. Brown, Lucien B. Howe, Pleasant B. Mathews, Elisha Miller, and Simeon Macy. The first officers of the lodge were as follows: Simeon Macy, W.M.; William M. Brown, S.W.; P. B. Mathews, J.W.; O. C. Allen, Sec. The lodge at that time met in the third story of the building now owned by J. C. Richey, on the south side of Fifth street. The lodge was constituted, under the charter, by Deputy Grand Master Rice, of Monmouth Lodge, October 10, 1857, when the above-named officers were installed. The first election of officers was held December 14, 1858, which resulted in the following being chosen: Simeon Macy, W.M.; Thomas Maddox, S.W.; G. A. Luvin, J.W.; Isaac N. Bassett, Treas.; Elias Willets, Sec. Elias Willets was the secretary till 1860. He received his demit from the lodge about 1862, when he moved to Warren county, where he practiced his profession, that of the law, till about the year 1870, when he was appointed county judge, to fill an unexpired term, at the close of which he was elected to the same office, which he held till his death in December, 1881. M. L. Marsh was the next secretary elected, who held the office for several terms, when he was appointed tyler, which office he has continuously held under the successive administrations of the lodge until the present time. At the election in December, 1862, William M. Brown was elected W.M., and Thomas Maddox, Sec. January, 1864, Simeon Macy was again elected W.M., and I. N. Bassett, Sec. The next change was in 1865, when Dr. W. D. Craig was elected W.M., and James M. Macy, Sec. The successive annual elections resulted as follows: December 18, 1866, J. M. Willson, W.M., J. M. Macy, Sec.; December 10, 1867, J. M. Willson, W.M., John C. Wellion, Sec.; December 22, 1868, L. L. Troy, W.M., Geo. P. Graham, Sec.; December 19, 1869, W. D. Craig, W.M., C. H. Smith, Sec.; December 6, 1870, John H. Snyder, W.M., M. L. Marsh, Sec.; December 19, 1871, J. M. Willson, W.M., B. F. Brock, Sec.; December 10, 1872,



Geo. P. Graham, W.M., James L. Bentley, Sec.; December 30, 1873, Geo. P. Graham, W.M., M. L. Marsh, Sec.; December 15, 1874, D. F. Brock, W.M., A. B. McCandless, Sec.; December 7, 1875, Geo. P. Graham, W.M., Luke Strong, Sec.; December 26, 1876, J. M. Willson, W.M., Joseph Boyd, Sec.; December 18, 1877, J. M. Willson, W.M., Alex. McArthur, Sec.; since which election James M. Willson has held the office of W.M., and the same officer was secretary till the election of September 14, 1880, when Fred Clark was elected. The present officers of the lodge are as follows: J. M. Willson, W.M.; R. E. Patrick, S.W.; Philip Killey, J.W.; J. F. McBride, Treas.; F. Clark, Sec.; Alex. McArthur, Senior Deacon; K. M. Whitham, Junior Deacon; A. E. Mead and Joseph Boyd, Stewards; M. L. Marsh, Tyler. The lodge now occupies a commodious and neat hall in the Aledo bank building. They are comfortably situated and in a very flourishing condition. In talking over the history of this organization some very pleasant memories are revived, not the least of which was the presentation in 1880 to Worshipful Master J. M. Willson, who had served the lodge for many years as its principal officer, of a magnificent cane to support the declining years of him who, "as a Master Mason, enjoys the happy reflection of a well-spent life."

*Aledo Lodge, I. O. O. F.*—This lodge was instituted July 1, 1857, by virtue of a charter issued under the seal of the Grand Lodge of the United States, bearing the signatures of Augustus C. Marsh, G.M., and Samuel Willard, G.S. The charter members were: O. C. Allen, John S. Moore, J. E. Harroun, Jacob Cool, and William Detwiler. The present officers of the lodge are: C. S. Bramkamp, N.G.; Wm. Shiver, V.G.; G. B. Morgan, Rec. Sec.; M. L. Marsh, Per. Sec.; J. O. Lundblad, Treas.; C. T. Cunningham, G. Rep.

J. S. Pinkerton, of Aledo, a member of this lodge, was the first member of the order initiated in Mercer county; his initiation took place in New Boston Lodge, No. 188, in November, 1855. The lodge is in a flourishing condition, has forty-four members, and net assets of \$626.31 in the hands of the treasurer. They meet in Abercrombie hall.

*A. O. U. W.*—A lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workingmen was instituted in Aledo, December 20, 1878, with twenty-five charter members. The officers of the original organization were as follows: P.M.W., A. R. Morgan; M.W., Wm. N. Graham; F., James M. Macy; Overseer, Jas. A. Cummins; Receiver, J. I. Edwards; Recorder, W. A. Lorimer; Financier, W. C. Galloway; Guide, D. T. Hindman; I. Watch, A. R. McDonald; O. Watch, Ben. Warlow. There has been only one death in the order since its organization, that

of James M. Macy in January, 1882. There is a present membership of sixty-four, and the order is on a sound financial basis and is otherwise prosperous. The order meets every Thursday evening in Abercrombie's hall. The present officer's are: P.M.W., S. M. Evans; M.W., W. A. Lorimer; F., James Bickets; Overseer, J. H. McPherrin; Recorder, A. R. McDonald; Receiver, W. C. Galloway; Financier, R. J. McDonald; Guide, Jas. A. Cummins; I. Watch, J. H. Abercrombie; O. Watch, Wm. Winders.

#### TOWNLEY'S TILE AND BRICK MANUFACTORY.

This enterprise was started by Mr. Townley in 1874, by his buying a block and a half of ground just east of town, from which he procures a good article of brick clay. The clay for his tile he procures from soil about a mile north of Aledo. Since starting his works, Mr. Townley has been making about 700,000 brick, and about 400,000 feet of tile per year. He finds a good market for his entire product from local trade, and is running his works to their full capacity.

#### "WEST END" CREAMERY, MILLERSBURG.

This new enterprise was projected in November, 1881, by Messrs. Stratton & Lunn, of Millersburg, who began making butter on a large scale, and readily finding a good market for their product, increased their facilities to what they are at present. They run a churn of the capacity of 250 gallons by a four-horse power engine. They use the common Settle cans of which they have in use 400, and have 500 more on the way from the manufacturer. Since starting the enterprise they have made on an average 100 pounds of butter per day, employing four men to gather cream. The proprietors now expect to run twelve or thirteen different routes in gathering their cream, covering a scope of over twenty miles square. About the first of March they will put up two more vats for cream, which will make their capacity 1,000 gallons, at which time they expect to make 500 pounds of butter per day. They find a good market for their butter in Chicago, and have recently had an offer from Pueblo, Colorado, for their entire product for the coming year. Messrs. Stratton & Lunn are thorough business men, and will doubtless make this enterprise a successful one.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

LEVI WILLITS (deceased), is one of Mercer county's noblest dead. His life was full of good works which in his death stand out in bold relief in honor to the doer. Mr. Willits was born May 31, 1808, in Pickaway county, Ohio, on a farm. His parents, William and Mary



Willits, moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio and in after years to Indiana. Levi spent his youth on the farm, enjoying but few school advantages, yet he early manifested peculiar mathematical ability. When about of age he began the trades of carpentry and cabinet making, which he followed some years. He was married December 1, 1832, to Miss Clarinda Drury, daughter of Edward and Jane Drury, born in Wayne county, Indiana, July 20, 1811. After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Willits resided in Raysville, Indiana, for four years, when it was decided to move to Illinois. Accordingly, in the fall of 1836, with ox-team, the journey was begun. Mrs. Willits became sick with the measles, having to keep her bed in the wagon. Arrived near Mud creek, not far from Blue river, the day being warm, the oxen seeing the water were uncontrollable by the driver and rushed toward the muddy element. In their race the wagon was upset, precipitating Mrs. Willits, sick as she was, into mud and water, completely drenching her and piling the heavy goods on her. In extricating her she was further bruised. She was then taken on horseback by a passing woman to a poor hovel and there treated as well as the circumstances would allow. The dirt and squalor of the hut could not be mentioned. As soon as able the party pushed on with their ox-team to Indianapolis, where they remained some time. While there Mrs. Willits' sister was taken ill of the measles and died. They buried her there in the bloom of her youth. It was then decided to return to Wayne county for the winter, at least, which they did. In the following spring the journey was again undertaken. Mr. Willits purchased three cows and considerable young stock, one horse and the ox-team. Mr. Willits was to ride the horse and drive the cattle, while Mrs. Willits should drive the ox-team, the man hired for the purpose being sick. Mrs. W. rode the horse for a time which, becoming scared at the cattle whip the driver carried, jumped, throwing the rider, but causing no dangerous injury. Slowly and interruptedly was the journey made. The three cows and much of the young stock were lost on the way. Arrived at New Boston, they found three or four log cabins and more Indians than white men. An old log cabin was occupied by them, necessitating, so dilapidated was it, the hanging of bed clothes, etc., over cracks and holes in the walls. With the ox-team Mr. Willits hauled all the lumber he could get at Millersburg and with it built one small room for a dwelling, with a sort of loft above for sleeping apartment for men employed. Below a bed and a trundle bed occupied one corner. Across one corner was hung a sheet, partitioning off a little room for flour and smoke room. Hired men slept up stairs and on the floor down stairs, while the "guid" couple occupied the bed. In that house was born the first

child to the Willits. In that house court was held when New Boston was the county seat and there the court and jury were boarded and lodged. The beds, etc., served as seats and the floors were their beds. Mrs. W. did her cooking in a cabin near by. The young cattle brought with them were slaughtered for food, a scarce article that year. A small stock of goods had been brought with them, such as groceries, paints, medicines, liquors, etc. With these merchandising was begun, which grew into a very lucrative business. Wm. Drury was for years Mr. Willits' partner. Soon Mr. Willits added to his home and with different additions the house became large. The frame is now owned by Henry Denison. During these early days Mrs. Willits, to aid in fortune, did washing and ironing for the young men of that day; also made pants, vests, etc. A man and a woman had been hired to do the baking for the trade, but they quitting, Mrs. Willits undertook it. She had an oven made, constructed of straw, shavings, mud, etc., and plastered with mud, then burned, as there were no brick. She paid for this from her own earnings. She also paid for her first cook stove by her own efforts. Mr. Willits, two years after opening his store, declared he would sell no more liquors to his neighbors, making them drunk, but would put in a supply of dry goods instead. He continued in trade many years. He also became engaged in merchandising in Millersburg a short time. He was extensively and many years engaged in the lumber business, trading in land, buying grain, packing pork, contract building, erecting a number of buildings in New Boston. It is unnecessary to speak here of his laying out the town of Aledo; of his founding, in connection with Judge John S. Thompson, a college for the Presbyterians and one for the Methodists, the foundation of the latter being laid and material ready, at his death; of his building the Barton hotel, and various other buildings. All this will be found in the history of Aledo. No doubt his exposures to water in laying out the town at the time he did, caused, in some degree, the rheumatism that brought on his sickness. He spent much of his time in Aledo the last year or two of his life. He returned to his home in New Boston to entertain friends, and while there was taken ill. He recovered somewhat, but moving about too much, he took a relapse, had a chill on Thursday, and on the following Tuesday died of inflammatory rheumatism, March 2, 1858. On the following Friday evening a large concourse of people gathered at the court-house in Aledo and passed resolutions of respect for him and admiration of his character. He was not a church member, yet was considered a good man. His house was always open to ministers and christians generally. The evening before his death



he called for a glass of water and holding it up, beautifully remarked: "Before to-morrow morning I shall be drinking purer water than that." He died before morning. He was always interested in the educational and general good of the people. In politics he had been a whig, but was a republican before he died. Five children had preceded him to the grave, all he had. One child of James Thompson, at its mother's death, had been taken to raise. It had died. Four children of Harriet Willits had also found a father and mother in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Willits. One died in her fourteenth year. The others were well educated and provided for in his will. Mr. Willits' good works live after him, but not as they would had he been spared to further prosecute his designs. Disease deprived the people of a noble mind, warm heart and willing hands. His works cannot be individualized in the space allotted here.

JOHN GEIGER. The frosts of sixty-eight winters have whitened the hair of Mr. Geiger, but in mind and body he is still vigorous and capable. His maternal grandparents were German. His father's people were of South Carolina, but of German extraction. His father, John Geiger, was born and raised in Martinsburg, Virginia, but became a resident of Maryland. He became a soldier in the war of 1812. Shortly after the war closed he removed to the southern part of Bedford county, Pennsylvania. Exposure and hardships incident to army life brought on pleurisy, progressing with consumption, and terminating in death about 1825 or 1826. He was not a strong man at any time. His wife, Elizabeth Kable, sons and daughters, after remaining in Hancock, Maryland, a few years, settled in Marion county, Ohio, where she, her sons (but John) and one daughter, have since died. John Geiger was born in Williamsport, Maryland, January 15, 1814, while his father was yet fighting the British. He was quite young when his parents moved to Bedford county. There, on the Little Licking river, under the shadow of one of the high eastern ridges of the Allegheny mountains, he passed his youth till seventeen years of age. He says, in speaking of his school days: "Naturally studious and of a somewhat retentive memory, I led my friends and teachers to think me precocious. So I was unmercifully pushed deep into the intricate parts of arithmetic before twelve years old. But by the imperfect methods of teaching that prevailed at that time, I understood nothing of consequence beyond the operations of the ground rules." He further says: "Aided by some adverse circumstances, I escaped further attendance at school until nineteen years of age." In 1831, young Geiger, in company with his oldest sister and her husband, Daniel Linn, crossed the Allegheny mountains via the national turn-

pike road to Ohio, assisting at times in caring for the team or driving. At that time the northwest and much of the interior of the state was wild and thinly settled. A new country presented dreary prospects to a lad seventeen years old, with naught of wealth to assist. But the love and good counsel of his mother were free. He began to plan and do for himself. He worked at whatever might offer, farming principally, although alternated with work in the stone quarry. Means of transportation were meager, oxen furnishing the larger part of the motive power. Wages were low, so that money making was tedious. His love for study continued unabated. He attended school part of two or three terms, near Caledonia, Ohio, finishing arithmetic and gaining a fair knowledge of grammar and geography. His study of school-books was interspersed with perusal of such works as natural philosophy, chemistry, astronomy, Goldsmith's Greece and Rome, Walson's Institutes, Playfair's Euclid, Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding, Good's Book of Nature, Butler's Analogue, Watts on the Mind, and other solid reading. In 1836, after five years' labor and economy, he had saved \$200 in silver. This he expended in a quarter section of heavily timbered congress land, in Whitley county, Indiana. During the ensuing winter he taught school in Huntington, remaining in the county one year, making improvements on his purchase. Land speculation at the date of his buying was at its height, but the crash of 1837 depreciated values leaving much land nearly worthless. After keeping his farm thirteen years and expending much labor on it, he sold just before the rise in prices caused by the railroad excitement. Mr. Geiger still made his home in Ohio, where he was much employed as an accountant in auditors' offices for a series of years, and in some four different counties. Feeling the necessity, from experience, of some tables for computing taxes, he, in 1847, compiled and printed a small book of tables. This was sold almost exclusively in Ohio. In 1854 he prepared a much fuller work. This being too expensive for his limited means he memorialized the Ohio legislature, obtaining an appropriation of \$3,500, to enable him to publish his work with dispatch, the state taking 300 copies in consideration of the appropriation. The edition of 800 copies was sold mostly in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan and Minnesota. Mr. Geiger's other literary work has embraced a few lectures, essays, poems, etc., some of which have appeared in the columns of the press. In politics he has been an unfaltering democrat through life. His first political activity was corresponding for Sam. Medary's "Ohio Statesman," in 1840, when he had the opportunity of seeing and hearing some of the greatest platform orators known to the public. In 1850 he became



editor-in-charge of the "Mount Gilead Messenger," continuing a short time during the compromise session of congress of 1849 and 1850, and the canvass for the Ohio constitution of 1850. Prosperity crowned the efforts of the industrious, so that in 1852 Mr. Geiger was able to purchase 1,000 acres of land in Mercer county, Illinois, buying in a body in Greene and Preemption townships, to which several hundred acres were added in 1853. In 1854 he planted five or six miles of osage orange fence, built plank fences, tenant houses, and made other improvements looking to its occupation as a grain and stock farm. May 27, 1858, he was married at Wabash, Indiana, to Mrs. Martha P. Arthur, widowed daughter of the late Judge Parish, of Columbus, Ohio, a union that has ever been happy. With his wife and her two children, O. P. Arthur and the present Mrs. James H. Connell, he moved to his Illinois farm in October of the same year. He carried on the grain and stock business till 1858, when he settled in Aledo. He still owns part of his farm. Since his residence in Aledo he has been successfully conducting the Aledo "Banner" and the Aledo "Democrat," some account of which appears in the history of Aledo. He also superintends his farm. Officially he has occupied a few local positions, but has more frequently declined than accepted opportunities as candidate for such honors. Without intending any special laudation it is but proper to say that Mr. Geiger's life has been one of success, and may teach to poor boys the lesson so often repeated, that even though poverty may be their lot in youth, they may, if willing to try, rise and become useful citizens.

THE GILMORE FAMILY.—Among the few white families who constituted the first permanent settlers of Mercer county, and who have taken prominent and active parts in its history and development, is that of which Judge Ephraim Gilmore is a member. He and his father, Col. Robert Gilmore, arrived in Warren county as early as 1833, and the following year the judge moved into that part afterward set off as Mercer county. Mr. Gilmore was born February 7, 1810, hence was in full manhood when his career became blended with that of Mercer county. After a residence of two years in New Boston he settled at a point about half way between Aledo and New Boston, on a farm subsequently owned by the Hon. John McGinnis. Here he lived and labored from 1837 to 1871, when he changed his residence to Aledo and embarked in the banking business. November 4, 1834, he married Miss Julia Ann Denison, daughter of William and Rachel Denison, who were the first white settlers of the county. Miss Denison was the only single white lady of the county at the time of this marriage. Seven sons and two daughters have been born to them:

William, Robert N., John A., James E., Edwin, Erastus E., Lyman C., Annie E., and Mary. William and Mary are dead. Robert is a resident of Johnson county, Missouri, and Annie E. (now Mrs. James Kiddoo) is of Rice county, Kansas. John A. enlisted August 6, 1861, in company E, 9th reg. Ill. Vol., and served three years and one month. His regiment was mostly recruited from St. Clair county, and was commanded by Col. Paine. John A. as a soldier was engaged at the first battle of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth. He then became a mounted infantryman, and accompanied Sherman to Atlanta, but in the meantime aided in guarding the Memphis and Charleston railroad. He was mustered out at Springfield. March 22, 1865, he was married to Miss Allie Pryme. She died June 28, 1866, leaving one child (Charlie). He was next married February 17, 1870, to Miss Sarah McGinnis, whose parents (John T. and Margaret McGinnis) are prominent in Mercer county history. John A. has spent many years on the farm, but is now in the bank. Robert N., James E. and Edwin were in company K, 102d reg. Ill. Vol., which regiment is so fully noticed in the history. Robert was discharged on account of ill-health incurred in Buell's famous forced march. James and Edwin served through the war. Judge Gilmore's history is so intimate with that of the county that a review of the one includes that of the other. He was the first postmaster of New Boston, first circuit clerk and first surveyor of Mercer county, once probate judge, once county treasurer, and twice a member of the state legislature. During his official career his conduct was marked by a courtesy of manner, an honesty of action and a purity and patriotism of motive to such a degree that there is not now in the county a single man to be found who does not honor and feel proud of his record and relations with his people. The Gilmore family are of Scotch-Irish descent. The ancestry came to the United States when they were dependent colonies, and were during the revolutionary war active patriots. Mr. Gilmore's grandfather, Ephraim Gilmore, being a continental soldier, who, after the close of the war, continued to reside in Chester county, Pennsylvania, where he raised four sons: Robert, Ephraim, John and Thomas. Robert afterward served as captain in the war of 1812. He was twice married, first to Miss Elizabeth Collins and then to Miss Maria Pilgrim. By his first wife he raised Ephraim (the subject of this sketch), John, Arabella, Ann, and Joseph; and by his second wife, James, Thomas, Elizabeth Rachel, Lawrence H., Benjamin F., and Robert C. The first marriage took place in Jefferson county, Ohio, and the second in the city of Columbus, he being at that time a member of the legislature of Ohio from the same county. Immediately after coming to



Warren county, Illinois, he was elected one of the commissioners for this county, which position he held two or three terms. He died about 1856, and was buried at Monmouth. He was 75 years old and was a man of strong force of character. He died in the fellowship of the Presbyterian church.

NICHOLAS EDWARDS, farmer and lumber merchant, Aledo, is a native of Crawford county, Indiana, where he was born October 23, 1816. His father, Isaac Edwards, died of small-pox before he can remember, and his mother, whose maiden name was Rachel Rice, married again. Mr. Edwards lived on the old homestead till 1834, when he engaged in flat-boating to New Orleans, working at first for \$15 per month. In 1838 he quit the river, came to Illinois, and in the spring of 1839 settled at Henderson, Knox county, and merchandised there until 1843. In September, 1839, he attended the land sales at Galena, but being obliged by previous engagement to return before he made his purchase, he left his money with friends who bid off for him the tracts he had selected, the same being the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18 and the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19, T. 14, R. 3, which land he still owns. Arriving home he celebrated his marriage with Miss Lydia Ann Edwards, of Hamilton county, Ohio, on the 6th of October. In 1843 he settled at the mouth of the Edwards river, below New Boston, where he ran a saw-mill in connection with William Willit, now of Keithsburg, and Isaiah Brown, who died in California. He was elected the same year to the office of justice of the peace. At that time there was no voting precinct at Keithsburg, and elections were held at what is at present known as Glancey's mills. The death of his wife in 1850 broke up his family; and the next to the oldest child, Sydnie Elizabeth, and the next to the youngest, Isaac Edward, were taken and raised by their uncle, William Edwards, of Hamilton county, Ohio. They still live in that state. The other children were Emily Frances, Rachel Elvira, John W., Mary Eliza, and Nancy Jane, both of which died in infancy. Immediately following this change in his domestic affairs, he went to trading on the river between Cincinnati and New Orleans, and was thus engaged for five years. In 1856 he returned to Mercer county, and from 1857 to 1860 lived in Aledo. Between the last date and 1869 his home was in Keithsburg and Oquawka, and the rest of the time until now in Aledo, where he has been carrying on trade in lumber. In politics Mr. Edwards is a republican. He was formerly a whig, and relates as an incident of the early political history of Keithsburg township that his party once held a primary meeting to elect delegates to the county convention, and that himself, William Willett and John McH. Wilson composed the attendants. Willett presided, Edwards



*J. W. Scinell*





acted as secretary, and Wilson made the motions. The meeting was decidedly harmonious. Mr. Edwards has for many years been a warm advocate of the temperance cause, and is at present directing his efforts and influence to assist in bringing about an entire prohibition of the manufacture and sale of spirituous, vinous and malt liquors.

ALEXANDER McARTHUR, circuit clerk, Aledo, only child of Alexander and Ann (McGregor) McArthur, was born in Perthshire, Scotland, February 4, 1850. He came with his widowed mother to this country, landing at New York July 4, 1856. The following spring they came to Aledo, where he has since resided. Mrs. McArthur, to whom our subject acknowledges with true filial gratitude that he owes all he is or may ever be, supported herself and her son until 1860, when he began to work out. From this date till 1870 he worked as a farm hand, improving the winters by attending district school. In 1871, he obtained employment in the store of McKinney & Lorimer, as book-keeper and salesman. In the autumn of 1874, his old employer, Mr. Lorimer, being circuit clerk, he was taken into his office as deputy. In January, 1876, the clerk resigned, and Mr. McArthur was appointed by the judge of the circuit court to fill the unexpired term of eleven months. In the fall of 1876, he was elected by the republicans to occupy the office, and in 1880, was re-elected. He is a member of Aledo Lodge, No. 252, A.F.A.M., of Keithsburg Chapter, No. 17, and Everts Commandery, No. 18, of Rock Island.

ISAAC N. DUNLAP, of the firm of Richey & Dunlap, Aledo, was born in Pennsylvania, May 12, 1836. His parents were Andrew and Jemima (Roby) Dunlap. In 1857, he came to Illinois, and after living one year in Knox county he made permanent settlement in Mercer. In June, 1861, he volunteered in Co. I, 17th Ill. Inf., and fought his only battle at Fort Donelson where he lost his left leg by a six pound shell. The missile took off two men's heads before it lodged in his thigh. He was left six days in an old house on the battle-field after his leg was amputated, without care, in expectation that he would die. He recovered and was discharged in April, 1862. The shell is preserved in the museum of relics of the war in Washington, and this case is cited in the medical history of the rebellion. Mr. Dunlap was elected county treasurer in 1865, by the republican party, of which he is a staunch and zealous member, and discharged the duties of that position with credit and satisfaction six years. On January 23, 1866, he celebrated his marriage with Miss Tirza A. Pinkerton. They are both communicants in the Methodist church. In 1874, Mr. Dunlap engaged in selling groceries with John W. Dilley. Afterward he was alone in the same trade; and next was out of business two years. In



1877 he began dealing in boots and shoes in company with William Day ; the latter died the next year, and he closed out soon after. In September, 1879, he formed his present partnership with C. S. Richey, Esq., in general merchandising.

BENJAMIN F. TOWNSLEY, brick and tile manufacturer, Aledo, was born in England in 1850, and in 1852 was brought by his parents, John and Anna (Stockdale) Townsley, to Toronto, Canada. In 1867 he came to Mercer county, and during the first five or six years worked at blacksmithing, afterward he engaged in the brick and tile business. He was manufacturing brick in New Boston in company with his brother James ; in 1876 they sold out and started again at Aledo. His brother died the next year, and he has since managed the work without a partner. In 1874 they began making drain tile on a small scale, and now Mr. Townsley has extended the business to include a brick yard at Joy. In the manufacture of tile Mr. Townsley uses Tiffany's centennial brick and tile machine for molding, and the square, down-draft kilns invented by the same patentee for burning. This business represents an industry of increasing importance that is destined to exert an incalculable influence on the productive wealth of the country. The advantages of tile draining are thoroughly proven and becoming well understood, and the amount of land tiled each year is immensely large. Mr Townsley is an Odd-Fellow, and a member of Aledo Lodge No. 136, I.O.G.T.

WILLIAM A. LORIMER, merchant, Aledo, born in Perth, Scotland, in 1840, emigrated with his parents in 1848 and lived first in Pennsylvania, then a short time in Ohio, and in 1853 came to Keithsburg. He was taken from school when twelve years of age and put to work in the Hudson (Ohio) "Observer" printing office. On arriving at Keithsburg he went to clerking, and continued to be so employed until the breaking out of the war. He promptly enlisted in April, 1861, in Co. I, 17th Ill. Inf., and was fighting the battles of his country a little over three years. The most prominent actions in which he was engaged were Fredericktown, Missouri, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, and Vicksburg. To this list of great battles should be added the usual amount of small fighting. He went out as sergeant of his company and was first promoted to second lieutenant, and next to captain, which latter rank he held when mustered out at Springfield in June, 1864. After returning to civil life he spent the first year in Chicago ; then coming back to Keithsburg he clerked for C. S. Orth, after which, in 1868, he was selected circuit clerk by the republicans of the county. This office he filled two terms of four years each. He was trading in dry goods in company with John McKinney Jr., a part of the time during his

incumbency as an officeholder, and since his retirement from public business has occupied his present stand on the southwest corner of Seventh street and College avenue. Mr. Lorimer was married in 1868 to Miss Orpha J. Calhoun. They have had five children, three of which are dead.

MORDECAI L. MARSH, justice of the peace, Aledo, was born in Rahway, New Jersey, in 1813. His parents were Solomon and Fanny (Brown) Marsh, whose Quaker ancestors came to America in the latter part of the seventeenth century, to escape the English prosecution of their sect. In New York Mr. Marsh learned the cabinet and piano trade. In 1834 he settled in Buffalo and embarked in land speculations. When the crash of 1837 came he was caught, like the rest of men, at a disadvantage, and lost about all his property. In the same year he emigrated to Ohio, and lived there till 1852, when he came to Illinois and located his family in Millersburg township, this county, and made farming his occupation until Christmas, 1857. He then moved to Aledo, having since resided here, and continuously held the office of justice of the peace, his first election having been in the spring of 1861. He has been treasurer of Mercer township several years. In 1832 he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Gregory. She has been an unfortunate invalid forty-eight years. Both were at first members of the Baptist church, Mr. Marsh joining in 1835; but about 1855 they became enrolled in the Presbyterian church, to which they now belong, and in which our subject has been a deacon nearly twenty-five years. These parents have one son, William. Mr. Marsh was a whig until that party disappeared as a political organization; since then he has been a republican.

JOHN G. MCGUFFIN, grocer, Aledo, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1829. He taught school seven years in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. In 1855 he arrived in the latter state and settled in Warren county; in 1857 he came to Aledo and began clerking for Dr. Isaac Edwards, and remained in his service until he went into the army. He volunteered in August, 1862, in company K, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and on the organization of the company was elected orderly sergeant. He remained with his regiment through all its earlier and disciplinary service, and finally when it left Lavergne, Tennessee, for the front, in February, 1864, he was sent back to Nashville, unfit for duty, and in October following was honorably discharged on account of disability. On his return home he took charge of Luvin's store, in that gentleman's absence on a visit to the old country; then he clerked for Poage & Senter four years. He was next a member of the dry goods firm of Richey Bros. & McGuffin for four years, and



after that was in the grocery trade in the firm of Atchison & McGuffin. The last sold out, and he soon started in business alone. Afterward M. E. McDonald purchased a half interest, and in May, 1881, was succeeded in the partnership by H. D. Marks, Mr. McGuffin's present partner. The subject of this notice was married, February 25, 1857, to Miss Maggie S. Harris. They have one son, William Rice, now preparing himself for the profession of medicine. Mr. and Mrs. McGuffin are Presbyterians; and he is a republican.

JAMES C. WRIGHT, retired farmer, Aledo, is a descendant of revolutionary stock, both his grandfathers having been soldiers in the war for independence. Mr. Wright's parents, Arunah and Polly (Wentworth) Wright, lived in Oneida county, New York, where there were born to them six sons, two of whom died young; those who grew up to manhood were Alpheus W., Horace E., George W., and the subject of this sketch, who was born in the year 1817. The mother died in 1829, and the father in 1838. In the latter year Alpheus came to Mercer county from Ohio, to which state he had previously emigrated. The following year the three remaining brothers left their native state and came here, and the four settled at Warr's Corners, in Richland township. In the autumn of 1842 these brothers made the first settlement at Preemption Corners, four miles west of their original location, though some others had made homes in the neighborhood a few years earlier. In 1846 Mr. Wright rode back to New York on horseback, in company with Andrew Conant and wife, and led six horses. He had come here without means. He remained in New York till 1851, and directly on his return was married, March 17, to Miss Julia A. Stone. She was a native of Mansfield, Connecticut, but was raised in Mr. Wright's own county, where they became acquainted. Her father's family removed to Lee county in the fall of 1850, and then the next year he followed to Illinois, and this couple were married. They have two living children: Newell N. and Louie A. Mr. Wright was supervisor of Preemption township two terms. He was originally a democrat, but in 1856 joined the new republican party.

WILLIAM WINDERS, produce dealer, Aledo, son of John and Elizabeth (Paden) Winders, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, September 25, 1836. In 1856 he came to Mercer county and settled in the country near Aledo, and worked at his trade of plastering and two years at farming. The war of the rebellion being in progress, on August 13, 1862, he volunteered as a private in company K, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. On the organization of the company he was appointed third corporal, but always did duty as sergeant, and was mustered out as first sergeant. He was with his regiment during its whole term of service,

except one week, when it was operating and fighting at Resacca. This embraced the Atlanta campaign, which Gen. Halleck pronounced the greatest of the war, the march to the sea, and the campaign of the Carolinas, to which may be added the march to Washington and the grand review. He helped to build the three hundred miles of breastworks and the same amount of corduroy road which Sherman's army made, fought in several battles, including Peachtree creek and Averysboro, and scores of skirmishes and small fights. His muster-out was at Washington, D. C., June 6, 1865. He was married June 12, 1862, to Miss Catharine E. Detwiler. In the spring of 1866 he removed with his family to Finley, Hancock county, Ohio, where he clerked in a dry goods store. In 1867 he came back and remained a month or two, after which he again went to Ohio and stayed another year, then returned to Aledo, where he has since lived. He was butchering three years, the rest of the time he has been in his present business. Mr. Winder's children are: Julia E., George S., Thornton D., Willie M., Charles Henry, and Araminta Pearl. He has been town trustee one year, and is a mason, a workman and a republican.

MARTIN BOYD, farmer, Aledo, oldest living child of Miles and Catherine (Fisher) Boyd, was born in Madison county, Indiana, February 12, 1834. In 1839 his father emigrated to Mercer county and settled in what is now Eliza township, and four years afterward died in Indiana, while there on business. His mother married again to James Turner, and is living on the old homestead. April 6, 1856, Mr. Boyd was married to Miss Lydia, daughter of Martin Bear, one of the original settlers of Eliza township, and the same spring settled on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16, Duncan township, and lived there twenty years. In 1876 he moved to Aledo. He was generally and quite extensively engaged while on his farm in feeding cattle. For a number of years he was supervisor and assessor of Eliza, and held, besides, other offices in his township. In 1880 he was elected by the democrats to the legislature, where he attended the regular session of 1880-81, and the recent special session convened the present year (1882) by Gov. Cullom. He has served on the committees on county and township organization, library, and miscellanies. Mr. Boyd has never been identified with any other than the democratic party. He was actively associated with his friends in the farmers' movement from 1873 to 1875, was master of a grange, and delegate therefrom to the state grange. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd have three children: Catharine, Lenore and Bertha. Catharine is the wife of Minor Miller.

CHARLES F. DURSTON, deputy circuit clerk, Aledo, second child of James and Philadelphia (Bridger) Durston, was born in Mercer county,



August 14, 1837. His parents emigrated from New York to this county in 1836 and settled in Rivoli township, where they lived till their death. The mother departed this life in 1866, and the father, an Englishman by birth, in 1878. This subject attended school one year at Wheaton College. Combining his studies there with other instruction which he received, he secured a very good English education. He was married in 1865 to Miss Sarah Gould, of this county, and by her has had three children: Lizzie, Alice and Adelpia. Both parents are members of the Congregational church. Mr. Durston lived by farming until 1873. In that year he was elected county clerk, and filled that office with acceptance to the people till his successor was elected in 1877. He has been deputy circuit clerk the last three years. Politically he is a republican.

JOSEPH B. MOORE, cabinet maker and furniture dealer, Aledo, was born March 14, 1827, and is the youngest living son of Foreman and Anna (Worley) Moore. He followed carpentering, farming, undertaking and boating in Ohio, and was several years justice of the peace. In 1865 he emigrated to Mercer county and for ten years worked an eighty-acre farm adjoining Aledo. In 1875 he gave up farming and engaged in his present business. In 1850 he celebrated his nuptials with Miss Margaret McCall. Their family has comprised three children: Robert K., music teacher; John W., died in infancy; and Mary Ellen, who married O. P. Arthur, and is now dead. Mr. and Mrs. Moore are communicants in the Methodist church. He is church trustee and has been steward and class leader. He has filled the office of trustee of the town of Aledo five years and was president of the board part of the time. In politics he is a democrat, as a rule, though he has voted for republican candidates for president, and does not adhere strictly to party lines. Mr. Moore's father was the son of Joseph Moore, and was born in Mason county, Kentucky, June 20, 1792. He came with his parents to Scioto county, Ohio, when six years old and lived in that county, except a year or two he was in Adams county when first married, until he came west with his son Joseph in 1865. He lives in Aledo, and at the advanced age of ninety years retains goodly health and activity. He was married in 1814 to Miss Anna Worley. They had nine children: Patience, Rebecca, Leroy, Charles, Scienda (dead), Joseph, John (dead), Jedediah (dead), and Asbury (dead). The mother of these children died about 1849, and a year afterward the father married Mrs. Rebecca Hoobler, who is still living. Mr. Moore united with the Methodist church at the age of twelve and has always been a steadfast, zealous laborer in the Master's vineyard. He has been a licensed exhorter over forty years, and has held official

connection with the church at different times as trustee, steward and class leader. He is pensioned by the government for service in the war of 1812. He was mustered as a soldier in his own county and after marching to Sandusky was discharged.

THOMAS MADDUX, farmer and stock raiser, Aledo, is a native of Fleming county, Kentucky, where he was born July 19, 1820. His father, George B. Maddux, was three times married, and the subject of this was the third child among four sons and five daughters by the second wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Green. Mr. Maddux's father was born and reared in Fauquier county, Virginia. He married for his last wife Elizabeth Hill and by this union became the father of two sons, making twenty-one children of his own. He died in Kentucky, and his wife in Aberdeen, Ohio, in 1875. Mr. Maddux learned the tinner's trade in Maysville, Kentucky, with Joseph Frank; in 1843 he removed to Laurel, Franklin county, Indiana, and lived there, engaged at his trade and carrying on the hardware business, till June, 1857, when he located his family in Aledo. He continued the same business here till 1868 and then sold out to W. H. Holmes. On his settlement in the place he erected the first building ever put up on the business lot now occupied by Mr. Holmes on College avenue. In 1873 Mr. Maddux resumed his old business on the corner of Seventh and Maple streets under the name of Maddux & Son. In March, 1876, he sold to Detwiler & Son and retired from trade. He had previously become interested in farming and is now the owner of two good farms near the county seat. He started a poor boy and has made a success of his undertakings. After serving his apprenticeship he had \$114 with which he began business. He has been twice married; first in 1846 to Miss Mary E. Williams, of Laurel, Indiana. The issue of this marriage were three children: Elizabeth (died in infancy), Lewis S., and Frank L. Mrs. Maddux died July 25, 1855, and on January 5, 1862, Mr. Maddux was married to Mrs. Phebe Whitelaw, of Franklin county, Indiana. They have had a little daughter, Kate A., who died when three years old. Mr. Maddux is a Mason, an Odd-Fellow and a republican.

CHARLES C. WORDIN, county clerk, Aledo, oldest son of Joseph J. and Sophia (Brown) Wordin, was born in Keithsburg township, September 25, 1840. He enlisted August 5, 1861, in Co. E, 9th Ill. Inf., and served with credit in that command until the expiration of his term, in August, 1864, when he was sent back from before Atlanta and mustered out at Springfield, Illinois. He fought at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, battle of Corinth, October 3 and 4, 1862, and after his regiment was mounted, in March, 1863, was continually on scouting service, and



participated in numerous small fights. He was also engaged in the arduous service of the Atlanta campaign. He enlisted a second time March, 1865, in Co. F, 4th reg. U. S. Vet. Vol., an organization formed by Gen. Hancock, to which none were admitted who had not seen at least two years service. One year was spent in garrison at Columbus, Ohio, Washington city, and Louisville, Kentucky. In March, 1866, he was mustered out at the latter city. After the war he kept books in Keithsburg five and a half years; then he was running a hotel two and one-half years; and in November, 1877, he was elected county clerk, and is still an incumbent of the office. Mr. Wordin has been an Odd-Fellow since 1868. December 18, 1872, he celebrated his marriage with Miss Jennie McPhee. In 1876, they lost their only child, a son, who was three years old. Mr. Wordin's father was born in Rensselaer county, New York, in 1815. He came to this county from Ohio, in 1837, and settled in Keithsburg in March, 1838, living at the landing till 1840. Moving out two miles, he lived on a farm three years; then he returned and has since had his home in the town. He followed his trade of wagon-making till 1862; since that he has been a house painter. He is one of the few venerable pioneers left as monuments whose shadows link the present with the aboriginal period in Mercer county.

WILLIAM HENRY HOLMES, hardware and stove dealer, Aledo, oldest son of William and Hannah (Lantey) Holmes, was born in Hull, England, February 15, 1847. His father emigrated with his family to Brantford, Canada West, in 1850; and in 1857 he removed to Wisconsin. The next year they came to Aledo, where they have all since lived. After coming here, Mr. Holmes attended school and worked at farm labor until the spring of 1864, when he commenced to learn the tinner's trade. At the end of two months he volunteered in the one hundred days' service in Co. F, 140th Ill. Inf. He was mustered into the service at Dixon, Illinois, and after five and one-half months spent in doing guard and garrison duty in Missouri and Tennessee, he was mustered out at Camp Fry, Chicago. He returned to Aledo and finished his trade, with Thomas Maddux, Esq., and in 1868 bought out his employer, and has been in business on the same ground since. He was married in 1874 to Miss Mary C. Hause. The fruits of this union have been two children, Clyde W. and Fannie May. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes are both members of the Methodist church. He has been steward in the church, trustee of the town, is a member of Aledo Lodge, A. F. and A. M., and a republican in politics.

DANIEL T. HINDMAN, county treasurer, Aledo, was born in Butler county, Ohio, February 22, 1839. His parents were Dr. Andrew and

Margaret (Trembly) Hindman. The former died in Union county, Indiana, in 1852; and the next year the mother came with her five sons to Rock Island county, Illinois, and in 1854 settled with her family in New Boston. The subject of this sketch received an academic education; in 1857 he went to Richmond, Indiana, and attended school one year; afterward he studied medicine a year and a half; and in 1860 returned to Mercer county. In April, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Co. I, 17th Ill. Inf., and was in the military service over five years. He fought at Frederickstown, Missouri, October 21, 1861, at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Iuka, the Hatchie, and Vicksburg. In November, 1863, he came north to Springfield, and then to Mercer county, as recruiting sergeant, and during the winter obtained twenty-one recruits for his regiment. He returned with them to Vicksburg, and by order of the commanding general, Slocum, organized these recruits and the veterans of the 17th into a battalion of two companies. These were allowed to elect their officers, and Mr. Hindman was chosen captain by the "veteran" company. By order of Gen. McPherson, commanding the Army of the Tennessee, this detachment was consolidated with the 8th Ill. Inf., in June, 1864, and owing to the resultant change in the line officers, Mr. Hindman accepted a second lieutenant's commission in Co. E, to which the "veterans" from the 17th were assigned. He was in command of this company during the remainder of his service, and drew pay as commanding officer. After the consolidation he fought at Jackson, Mississippi, in July, 1864, and at Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, Mobile. After that he was stationed a year at Shreveport, Louisiana, and in Texas, and was mustered out at Baton Rouge, May 4, 1866. He soon after went into business in New Boston, which he continued till the fall of 1875, when he was elected on the republican ticket to the office of county treasurer, to which he has been successively elected and is now serving his third term. He is a member of the A.O.U.W., and has been a Mason since 1866. In the latter year he was married to Miss Viola J. Willits. They have a son and a daughter.

HENRY KIMEL, (deceased), was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, August 6, 1800, and was a son of Isaac and Mary J. (Musser) Kimel, both natives of Germany. In 1808, the family emigrated to Trumbull, since Mahoning county, Ohio, where the old people lived till death. Henry Kimel was there married to Miss Anna M. Hirst, whose father was from England and whose mother was from Ireland. Nine children were born in Ohio. In 1840, Mr. and Mrs. Kimel, with five of the children, James W., Thomas K., Jonathan T., Chauncey L. and William P., emigrated via the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to



Illinois, landing at Oquawka, June 10. They immediately took teams for what is now Ohio Grove township, Mercer county. Latter the other four children, Isaac, Eliza A., Mary J. and Julia, arrived after a journey overland of thirty days. Mr. Kimel entered 160 acres of congress land near the center of Ohio Grove township, also secured a quarter section of military land. There were but few settlers in the township at that time. No roads were laid out for travel but all was wild and unbroken from Oquawka to where they settled. The usual improvements were begun and carried out. Small crops were raised; corn was at one time six and a quarter cents a bushel, and the postage on a letter twenty-five cents, thus four bushels of corn being required to pay postage on one letter. But Uncle Sam allowed an envelope to be filled without any extra due stamps for a long letter. One child, John Harvey, was born in 1842. A sad bereavement befell the family when, August 18, 1846, death claimed the wife and mother. She was a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Kimel subsequently married Mrs. Catharine Case, of Rock Island county, who became the mother of four children: Anna, John H., Eddie, and Aseneath. She died July 5, 1871. Mr. Kimel, in 1848, sold the first purchase and bought what is known as the Lamar farm, which he improved. In 1863 he moved to Rock Island county, where he lived till 1878. He then passed his remaining years about two miles southwest of Viola, Mercer county, where he died October 10, 1880. Religiously he was a Presbyterian; politically an old line whig, and later a republican. When twelve years old he volunteered in the war of 1812, but was rejected on account of youthfulness. Shortly before his death he purchased the McBride and Stephens saw-mill, which he sold to his son, James W. James W. Kimel, the fourth child of the first family of Henry Kimel, was born February 27, 1831, in Trumbull county, Ohio, near Youngstown. His youth was spent on the farm, with but meager educational advantages. Several seasons he broke prairie with five and six yoke of oxen. In 1848, he spent a few months at school in Ohio, and in the following year returned to the farm in Illinois. In 1850, he was seized with the California fever. With a company from Moline, Illinois, April 4, he started overland for the far west, where he arrived in Sacramento August 17, following, after the experiences incident to such a journey. After remaining, with considerable success, financially, till 1853, he returned in January to Illinois. He purchased the McBride and Stephens saw-mill of his father, which he conducted for four years. In 1858, he displaced the saw-mill by a grist-mill, on the same site. The grist-mill he run till 1876, when he erected his present large structure, 36×46, three story and basement.

His attention having been called to the "wire transmission power," he visited several mills for examination and information. Satisfied as to its efficacy he determined to adopt it. He built his mill 300 feet from the stream and prepared for his new and lately invented "power," which the aged and knowing ones predicted would fail. Time and use have proven the success of this departure. The mill is generally in action. A small stock of groceries is kept to accommodate farmers. In 1854, Mr. Kimel purchased the quarter section of land on which he lives. In 1874 he added a quarter, and in 1876 an eighty. He was married May 4, 1854, to Mary B. Burnet, who was born in Salem, New York, August 7, 1832. Her parents, Andrew and Mahettable Burnet, were of Scotch descent. They emigrated from New York to Ohio Grove township, Mercer county, Illinois, in 1838. They were emphatically pioneers who dared the new and wild west for homes. He died here May 31, 1861. She died at Mr. Kimel's home January 30, 1881. After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Kimel lived near the old mill for nine years. In 1863, a house was built on the farm and occupied. In 1868 an addition was made, bringing the dwelling into considerable notice as a large and handsome building. Other improvements have added much to its beauty. It is enjoyed by a family of six children, comprising Lara, Lucy J., Abbie M., Jim B., Gussie C. and Bessie M. Mr. Kimel, politically, is republican, but meddles but little with politics. His business consumes his time entirely.

MARK CANNUM's father emigrated to this country from England in 1852, and while on his way to Illinois died near New Orleans where the family landed. The subject of this sketch was born near Peterborough, England in 1843, and settled in Mercer county, near where he now lives, in 1853. He entered the army during the late war, enlisting for three years in August, 1861, and participated in the engagements of Fort Donelson, Belmont, Vicksburg, Corinth, Brittain's Lane, Meriden, and the Atlanta campaign. He was mustered out at Chattanooga Tennessee, August 4, 1864. He was slightly wounded at Fort Donelson. After his return from the army he settled down to farming, in which occupation he is still engaged. He built his present handsome dwelling-house in 1876. Mr. Cannum was married in September, 1866, to Miss C. J. Smith of Mercer county, and they have four children living; one child is dead. The names of the living are: Addie May, aged fourteen; Carrie E., aged thirteen; Lewis D., aged eleven; and Ephriam, aged six years. Mr. C. and wife are members of the Christian church of Ohio Grove township. Mr. C. is politically a republican.

WM. MCKEE, the subject of this sketch, and his brother Joseph, are



the oldest settlers now living in Mercer township. They having lived in the township since 1841. The father of the McKee brothers bought the southeast quarter of section 28, from William J. Turner, the deed bearing date of May 20, 1840. Wm. McKee was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, March 9, 1829. He left Ohio with his parents at the age of six years, coming with them to Warren county, Illinois, where they stayed till 1841, when they moved to Mercer county. Mr. McKee has been a farmer all his life, and is unmarried. For several years he has been director of school district No. 9, and politically is a democrat.

JOSEPH MCKEE was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, July 31, 1831. His parents were John and Nancy McKee. His parents settled in Mercer county in 1841, since which time Mr. McKee has lived upon a farm, and has been a constant citizen of Mercer county. He enjoys, with his brother William, the distinction of being the only living pioneers of Mercer township. He was married July 8, 1858, to Miss Isabel A. Waddle, formerly of Marshall county, West Virginia. They have six children living: Eila J., aged twenty; Samuel Elsie, aged fifteen; Orvill S., aged eleven; Roland H.; Elsey Clyde, aged five; and Ralph Waldo, aged one year and a half. Mr. M. is a member of the Presbyterian church of Aledo, and politically is a republican.

CHARLES FREMONT CABEEN was born in Mercer county in 1851, being the second son of Thomas and Mary Cabeen. He spent the early portion of his life upon his father's farm and going to school. About the year 1879 he went to Aledo and for a time kept the Aledo House, and in connection with his brother, W. A., was engaged in an agricultural implement store. At the death of his father in 1880 he took charge of the farm, which he still manages and controls. Politically Mr. Cabeen is an independent democrat.

JAMES L. BENTLEY was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, February 27, 1832, and was the eldest son of Elim and Rachel (Dilley) Bentley. His father being a farmer, he was raised upon a farm, where his life was passed until his twenty-first year. He then emigrated to Mercer county and engaged in teaching school, at which occupation he continued till eleven years had passed, mostly in Ohio Grove township, district No. 3. At the expiration of this time he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, in 1862 buying the place where he now resides, some three miles southeast of Aledo. This he has greatly improved and added to, and now, retired from active life to some extent, enjoys his well earned plenty. He was married September 23, 1853, to Miss Nancy Smith, whose parents were among the earliest settlers of

Mercer county. He has three children: the eldest, Charles E., twenty-four years of age, is engaged in teaching and farming, making his home at his father's; a daughter, Minnie E., aged nineteen, and a son, George S., aged fourteen. Mr. Bentley is a member of the masonic order, and by political faith is a republican.

MARTIN L. COFFLAND was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, February 11, 1851, being the youngest son of Launcelot and Eliza Coffland. Mr. Coffland spent his early life farming in Jefferson and Belmont counties, Ohio. In the year 1868 he came west, and worked upon a farm most of the time for ten years in Warren county, when he settled in Mercer county, where he now resides, five miles east of Aledo. He was married February 21, 1872, to Miss Phoebe J. Finley, of Warren county, and has three children: Mary Grace, aged seven years, Rose Anna, aged two, and Orion Finley, born April 10, 1882. Mr. Coffland and wife are members of the United Presbyterian church of Aledo. Mr. Coffland is a republican.

JACOB WILSON UNANGST was born in Warren county, New Jersey, May 13, 1819. Mr. Unangst passed his early life working on his father's farm. He left the farm and worked upon the Morris canal until 1845, when he was appointed as inspector of its west division. In this capacity he served till 1850, when he came to Mercer county and settled in Ohio Grove township, where he remained farming till April, 1882. He then bought the Bauer hotel in Aledo, over which he now presides, having changed its name to the Commercial House. Mr. Unangst was married in March, 1841, to Miss C. Gaston, of Warren county, New Jersey, and has three children, who are all grown and settled: Mrs. Margaret A. Pollock lives in Ringgold county, Iowa, and Daniel M., who is a carpenter by trade, resides in Aledo, making his home with his father.

SNOWDEN K. WHITE was born August 2, 1855, in Greene county, Pennsylvania. His parents' names were Isaac and Lydia (Tustin) White. His father was a millwright. Snowden K. came to Mercer county from Pennsylvania in 1877, where he soon started quite extensively in the ditching and house moving business. Starting with his brother, he at this time ran his business alone, and during the year 1881 cut over 50,000 rods of ditch in Mercer and Warren counties, and moved upward of fifty houses. Mr. White is altogether a self-made man, and though young is a man of weight and standing, which his energy and business talent deserve. He is a member of the Baptist church of Aledo, and a worker in the choir and Sabbath school. Politically he is a democrat.

JOSEPH LAIR was born in Fayette county, Indiana, in 1825. His



father was a river man, taking his first trip up the Mississippi by steam from New Orleans. The subject of this sketch lived upon the farm of his father during boyhood, and spent his life upon the farm. He settled upon the farm on which he still lives in Mercer county, on March 1, 1856. The land was raw prairie at that time, but is now one of the fine farms of the many in the county. Mr. Lair was married August 26, 1847, to Miss Sarah E. Rose, of Fayette county, Indiana, and has had four children: Mrs. Emily Alice, wife of Richard Lemon, Millersburg township, now deceased; a son, William W., who lives on the next farm to his father; a daughter, Martha A., born in 1854, now deceased; and a daughter, Flora Luellen, married to Mr. Roe Vincent, of Mercer township. Mr. Lair has for many years held the offices of road commissioner and school director. He is a member of the masonic order and a republican.

HENRY NESBITT. Mr. Nesbitt was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, October 5, 1834. His parents were Jonathan and Mary (McClure) Nesbitt. His father was a blacksmith by trade, and our subject passed most of his life upon a farm; emigrating to Illinois in 1855, and settling in Mercer county in 1857. He bought the farm upon which he lives in 1871, and by hard work and energy made it what it now is, one of the best improved farms in the county. His dwelling is second to none in the county for comfort, style, and choice of location, standing as it does upon an eminence which commands a view of the country for miles around. Mr. Nesbitt was married in 1861 to Harriet Smith, of Mercer township, and has five children: Mary J., aged seventeen; Lula, aged thirteen; Minnie, aged nine; Myrtle, aged seven; and Harry, aged one year. Mr. Nesbitt is director of school district No. 6, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Aledo, and politically is a republican.

JOSEPH OSCAR LUNDBLAD was born in Sweden, December 4, 1823, and landed in New York September 20, 1852. He came west to Princeton, Illinois, and soon after moved to Rock Island, and finally settled in Aledo in 1869. He learned the shoemaker's trade in the old country, and has been engaged in the boot and shoe business ever since coming to America. He was married April 27, 1848, to Miss Sophia Gustaver, of Sweden, and they have three children living: George Oscar, aged twenty-three, who is in business with his father, and two daughters, Hilma Maria, aged twenty-one, and Hulda Christina, aged eighteen. Mr. Lundbland is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church of Aledo, and for many years was an officer of that church, and is also a member of the masonic and odd-fellows' orders. Politically he is a democrat.

WASHINGTON BOONE, grocer, was born in Medina county, Ohio, February 22, 1837. His parents' names were Hezekiah and Sarah A. Boone. He left Ohio with his parents in 1848, they settling in Illinois, in the southern portion of which they lived for some two years, when in 1850 they moved to Mercer county. At that time there were not more than a dozen families in the township. The subject of this sketch was raised upon a farm, but learned the shoemaking trade, at which he worked for many years, when he embarked in trade, being now engaged in the grocery business. He was married February, 1867, to Miss Belinda Baxter, and they have had two children: Wm., aged fourteen, and Lois, aged twelve years. Mr. B. is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and politically a republican; he cast his first vote for John C. Fremont.

GEORGE A. WRIGHT, the only son of Horace E. and Harriet (Jewel) Wright, was born August 10, 1849, in Rock Island, Illinois, being the first male child born in that city. He has lived in Mercer county nearly all his life, attended common school, and spent most of his life upon a farm. The last five years he has been engaged in mercantile pursuits. In February, 1882, he embarked in the flower and seed trade in Aledo. Politically he is a republican.

HON. JOHN C. PEPPER was born in Cambridgeshire, England, September 21, 1829. His parents were Charles A. and Susan Pepper. He left England when seven years of age with his parents in a sailing vessel, and after being seven weeks and three days out of sight of land landed in New York. His parents settled in Amboy, Oswego county, New York; his father was a silversmith by trade. Mr. Pepper's boyhood was passed at home with his parents until his sixteenth year, when he entered Vernon academy, at Vernon, New York, where he attended two years. He then went to the Wayne county institute, where he attended three summers, teaching school in the winter, until 1848, when his health failed to such a degree that he came west with no expectation of ever regaining it. He staid one year in Peoria, and then came to Mercer county, first settling in Keithsburg, where he was admitted to the bar. He then came to Aledo, where he has since remained in the practice of his profession. Mr. P. was married in January, 1851, to Miss Mary A. Martin of Mercer county, and they have four children living: Helen, married to Frank Martin, an attorney of Falls City, Nebraska, three other daughters, Bertha, Norma and Mabel being at home; three children died when young. Mr. Pepper is the president of the Illinois state temperance union, and an active worker in the cause. By political faith he is a democrat.

WILLIAM B. FREW was born in 1829 in Allegheny county, Pennsylv-



vania. His father's name was David Frew, and his mother's maiden name was Mary Jordan. His father was a mechanic. Mr. F. spent his youth until his seventeenth year chiefly in attending the public schools and St. Clair academy. At the age of seventeen he began to teach the public school at Noblestown, Allegheny county, which occupation he alternated with attending college, first at Duquesne at Pittsburgh, and afterward at Jefferson at Cannonsburg, till 1854, when he became principal of the South Pittsburgh public schools, where he remained one year. For four years, from 1855 to 1858, he was principal of the Birmingham public school. In the summer of 1855 he made a trip west and bought the land which he subsequently improved, which is situated in Greene township, Mercer county, five miles east of Aledo, and which he still owns. At the close of 1858, on account of ill health, he was obliged to resign his school and spent the summer of 1859 at the seashore trying to regain his health. In the spring of 1860 he came to Mercer county, and, after spending a year as tutor in a family, was elected to the office of county surveyor, which office he held for fourteen years. In 1879 he was appointed deputy county surveyor, which office he still holds. From 1862 to the present time he has been engaged in engineering, surveying and attending to his farm, which he uses chiefly for stock raising. He was married in 1870 to Miss Lydia J. Taylor of New Alexandria, Pennsylvania, at that time locating in the home he now occupies adjoining the town of Aledo. Mr. Frew is a member and a trustee of the United Presbyterian church of Aledo, and politically is a republican.

ALEXANDER M. WOODS was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in December, 1849. He came to Mercer county with his parents at the age of seven years. His parents settled on a farm about ten miles south of Aledo, where they remained about two years and then moved to Aledo. Mr. Woods attended the public schools, and learned the painter's trade, which occupation he still follows. With the exception of one year passed in the west, Mr. Woods has lived in Mercer county. He is a prominent man in musical circles. He has been leader of the Congregational church for nearly ten years. He was a member of the Aledo cornet band for several years, and was a member of the Woods Bros'. male quartette during the existence of that organization, and has been the recognized leader of vocal music of Aledo for many years. Politically he is a democrat.

C. F. THEDE, carriagemaker and blacksmith, was born in Hamburg, Germany, in April, 1832. He landed in New York in 1852, and shortly afterward settled in Michigan, where he had relatives. In 1856 he moved to Rock Island and went into business. He lived



LORIMER JOHNSTON.





there till 1870, when he came to Aledo, where he still remains, carrying on the carriage-making business with his son Christian. Mr. Thede was married in 1854 to Miss Laura Herbst, a native of Berlin, Prussia. They have had twelve children, ten of whom are living and two dead. Mr. Thede and wife are members of the United Presbyterian church of Aledo, and politically Mr. Thede is a democrat.

JESSE MARKEE was born in Allegany county, Maryland, in 1820; his father was a farmer. When Mr. Markee was a small child his parents moved to Muskingum county, Ohio, where they lived a few years. The elder Markee then moved to Belmont county, Ohio, and a few years after the subject of this sketch moved back to Muskingum county, upon the farm his father had occupied. Here he stayed till 1842, when he came west and stayed about a year and a half in Iowa, when he returned to Ohio. He remained in Ohio till 1853, when he came to Mercer county, Illinois, which was then very thinly settled. When in Iowa, about 1843, Mr. Markee witnessed, at an old trading house near Eddyville, the last treaty with the Indians, there being 2,700 red men present. Mr. Markee, though raised upon a farm, worked for about ten years at the carpenter trade. When he came to Illinois he bought 240 acres of land in Ohio Grove township, which he farmed till 1872, when he came to Aledo and engaged in buying and shipping stock. About 1875 Mr. Markee, together with Mr. Richey and Mr. Spicer, built the Aledo machine shops, and started to manufacture farm implements. He was afterward for several years engaged in the grocery business. Mr. Markee and Mr. Dunlap, while in the grocery business, bought the lot and put up the building known as Union Hall, together with its store rooms. Mr. Markee then went out of trade, and has since been engaged in looking after the interests of his farm. He was married in 1849 to Miss Sarah Bevin, of Muskingum county, Ohio, and they have had five children, the eldest of whom are dead. Of the living, Mary E. is married to Rev. M. C. Bolon, of Carthage, Illinois; Nira L. is married to Prof. Silas Montz, of Dixon, Illinois; and the youngest, a son, J. N. Markee, is employed in the drug store of Dr. Johnston, of Aledo. Mr. Markee is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Aledo; is a member of the masonic fraternity, and politically is a republican.

DR. GEORGE IRVIN was born December 25, 1825, in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and was the son of John and Mary (Young) Irvin. He spent his early life on his father's farm, and received an academic education. In 1852, he commenced reading medicine with Dr. Thomas Maybon, at Jacksonville, Pennsylvania, and attended lectures at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, from 1853 to 1855;



taking his degree as M.D. in March of the latter year. After graduating he practiced at Prospect, Butler county, Pennsylvania, for a year and a half; at Plumville, Indiana county, for over a year; and at Jacksonville, where he had studied medicine, for about a year and a half. In May, 1859, he removed to Aledo, where he has built up a large and lucrative practice, enjoying the confidence and esteem of all. He owns and occupies one of the best and most commodious residences in town, and has surrounded himself and family with all the modern conveniences and luxuries. He also owns a large farm near town, besides other town property. He has been twice married, and has, by his first wife, four children: Anna, Frank, Jessie and George. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and has been for many years a deacon or elder therein. As a physician and surgeon he holds a deservedly high reputation throughout the country tributary to Aledo and among the brothers of his profession. He is the oldest resident physician in practice in Aledo.

Among the many citizens of other states who formerly resided in this county there are a few who desire to live over their early life by perusing the pages of this history, and of the number is JESSE W. McPHERREN, of Little Rock, Arkansas. He was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, February 1, 1847, and is the son of James McPherren, who still resides in this county. His father was born June 7, 1808, in Pennsylvania; his mother, April 1, 1805, in Rockbridge county, Virginia. The family removed to Ohio Grove township, this county, in 1855. His mother died August 18, 1858, and was buried in the Candor cemetery, in that township, leaving a husband, four daughters and six sons. Jesse was educated in the public schools, principally at winter terms. His youth was spent in Grant county, Indiana, Mercer county, Illinois, and Muskingum county, Ohio, mostly on a farm, until the age of fifteen, when he enlisted in Co. K, 87th Ohio Vol. Inf., for three months; was captured at the surrender of Harper's Ferry, Virginia, September 17, 1862; was paroled and returned to Ohio; was discharged October 3, 1862. He returned to Mercer county, and spent the next summer on a farm near Aledo, and on November 4, 1863, enlisted in Co. C., 11th Ill. Cav., at Quincy, Illinois, for three years; joined his regiment in the rear of Vicksburg in the following December, and remained with it in Tennessee and Mississippi until the close of the war, when it was mustered out of the service at Springfield, Illinois, October 13, 1865. He is one of six of one family who served in the late war; His father, James McPherren, enlisted in Co. A., 30th Ill. Inf., in 1861, and was discharged for disability in 1862. His four brothers served as follows: James C., in Co.

C, 35th Ill. Inf.; George and John S., in Co. II., 84th Ill. Inf.; and Andrew M. in 9th Ill. Cav. Of the six all returned home but George, who fell at Murfreesborough, Tennessee, January 1, 1863. After leaving the service Jesse returned to Mercer county, in October, 1865, but did not remain long. During the next few years he resided in a number of places: Newago county, Mich.; Boone county, Iowa; Cheyenne, and Bridger's Station, Wyoming Territory; Fairfield, Iowa; and St. Charles, Mo., returning to this county frequently. In 1870, he went south, and on December 31 of that year landed at Wesson, Mississippi, where he remained until 1873, when he spent a few months in Kentucky, returning to Wesson in November. January 7, 1874, he met with an accident in the machine shops of that place, causing the loss of his left eye. Was married October 15, 1871, in Wesson; lost his eldest child in July, 1881, and his wife in August, 1881. He has one child, a boy, aged four, and is again married. In 1881, he removed to Little Rock, Arkansas, where he is now engaged in the drug business, and has secured a large and lucrative custom. He was elected mayor of Wesson, Mississippi, in 1875, and re-elected in 1877; belongs to the Presbyterian church, the Masons, Odd-Fellows and Knights of Pythias. His life has been one of constant labor; he has been a farmer, merchant, engineer; has engaged in saw-milling and railroad-ing, and is now settled as a druggist. While in some of these he has lost, he has, as a whole, been successful, and is now in comfortable circumstances. He still cherishes a warm feeling for his old home and friends in Mercer county.

LUCIEN B. DOUGHTY, son of Rev. Thomas L. and Mary J. Doughty, was born March 28, 1841, in Knightstown, Henry county, Indiana. The life of Mr. Doughty has been one of activity and large experience. He lacked six years of having attained his manhood when with his father's consent he started out into the world, to battle with its hardships singlehanded, not only to make a living for himself but to assist his father, which he did by turning over to him his small wages. The family had moved to New Boston in 1843, when Lucian was two years old, and here he received such education as the schools and his limited time afforded. He improved his time then and since, as is evidenced by some very acceptable articles contributed to this work. In the fall of 1851 the family moved to the northwest corner of Warren county, and in 1856 Lucien began active life as intimated above on a farm. A year later he entered the "Record" office at Aledo to learn the printer's trade, in which business he has been constantly engaged with the exception of a few important years, as hereafter noted. In 1859 he was working on the Geneseo "Republic," and next year went to Des



Moines, Iowa (1860), and worked on the Iowa State "Register," part of the time on local work. The alarm of war had scarcely been sounded when Mr. Doughty entered the ranks as a soldier for the purpose of assisting in rebuking rebellion, and enlisted in Co. E, 4th Iowa Inf., Capt. H. H. Griffith, Col. G. M. Dodge. He had nearly served out his term of three years when he re-enlisted as a veteran in January, 1864, at Woodville, Alabama. He was finally discharged July 28, 1865, having served his country and braved the dangers and hardships incident to war over four years. His experience as a soldier can be gathered from a brief mention of the marches and engagements of the regiment to which he belonged. From St. Louis, their starting point, they went to Rolla, Missouri; then to Pea Ridge and Helena, Arkansas; thence with Sherman at Walnut Hills, Arkansas Post, and back to Vicksburg; with Grant to Jackson, Mississippi; in the siege of Vicksburg; back to Jackson; with Sherman, under John A. Logan, from Iuka to Chattanooga; with Hooker in the "fight above the clouds"; at Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge and Ringgold; thirty days at home in the spring of 1864 on veteran's furlough; again with Sherman from Chattanooga, Atlanta, and the march to the sea; thence through the Carolinas and finally to Washington to participate in the grand review, May 23, 1865. To look at the little man it seems a wonder that he could go through so much. In all he was in forty-three engagements and escaped without a wound. After the war he was for a time in Richmond, Indiana, and in Dayton, Ohio. From May, 1866, to May, 1867, he published the "Democrat" at Eaton, Ohio, and in the fall of the last mentioned year removed to Des Moines, Iowa, and the next year to Rolla, Missouri, where he edited the Rolla "Herald." In 1869 he got back to his old stamping ground, Aledo, and worked nearly four years in a carriage shop. At the end of this time he again entered the "Record" office, where he has since been engaged. August 16, 1866, he was married to Miss Fannie E. Hayes, of Eaton. To them was born one son, James Henry, June 10, 1867, and on August 12, 1869, his wife died and on the next day his son. July 16, 1871, Mr. Doughty was again married, this time to Clara D. Pennell, of Rock Island. To them three children have been born: Josie Amelia, born January 8, 1873; Charles Eli, February 2, 1875, and Clara Emma, March 18, 1878 (died April 19, 1878).

FRANCIS LEMON, jeweler, is the fourth son of William and Ellen (Lockhart) Lemon, of Mercer county. He was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in December, 1849, came west with his parents in 1852, and settled in Perryton township, Mercer county. He received a common school education, and remained on his father's farm till

1874, when he came to Aledo and embarked in the grocery business, which he followed about one year. Mr. Lemon being a natural mechanical genius, had spent his leisure time while on the farm in learning the watchmaking trade, and in the fall of 1876 he opened up business in the jewelry line in Aledo, where, by care and attention to business, he has built up a good trade in his line.

LOUIS D. HOLMES, attorney, was born July 24, 1847, in Adams county, Ohio. He was the eldest son of John and Elizabeth (Traber) Holmes, both of whom were natives of Adams county, Ohio. He spent his early life upon a farm, and working in a saw mill until his nineteenth year. He received a common school education, and in addition graduated at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio, where he took his degree in 1868. He came west in April, 1869, and entered the law office of Bassett & Connell; was admitted to the bar in August, 1871, and has practiced his profession in Aledo ever since. He was married in May, 1872, to Miss C. W. Campbell, of Ripley, Ohio, and has two children. Mr. Holmes is a prominent member of the Baptist church, also a member of the board of trustees of the town of Aledo, and politically is a republican.

DR. D. R. JOHNSTON was born August 21, 1842, in Logan county, Ohio, he being the third son of Rev. Dr. J. B. Johnston, of the United Presbyterian church. He received his education at Geneva College, Ohio, and attended both the medical college of Ohio at Cincinnati and Rush Medical College of Chicago, taking his degree as M.D. from the latter institution, in 1865. At the breaking out of the war he entered the army with the 17th reg. Ohio Vol. Inf., and in 1864 was appointed by Gov. Morton assistant surgeon of the 1st Indiana heavy artillery. He practiced medicine in Indianapolis from 1865 to 1868, when he was appointed by the board of foreign missions of the United Presbyterian church as medical missionary to Egypt, where he spent eight years, part of which time he was president of the training college at Osiout, upper Egypt. The doctor returned to the United States in the spring of 1876, and in the fall of that year located in Mansfield, Ohio, where he remained till April 1, 1881. In the summer of 1881 he came to Aledo and bought the drug store of Dr. J. M. Wallace, and entered upon the practice of his profession. He was married December 25, 1868, to Miss Maggie J. Stewart, of St. Clairsville, Ohio, and has had four children, of whom two died in Egypt and two are living. Dr. Johnston is a member of the United Presbyterian church of Aledo, and superintendent of its Sabbath school, and by political faith is a republican.

KENNETH M. WHITHAM was born, September, 1856, in Mercer



county. He is the oldest son of Rev. Jos. R. and Elizabeth (McCoy) Whitham. He is a graduate of the Aledo academy, and attended college at Battle Creek, Michigan, for two years, and since returning from that institution has been engaged in teaching in Mercer county. He is at present principal of the grammar department of the public schools of Aledo, and is president of the Mercer County Teachers' Association.

LUKE STRONG, photographer, was born in Clarendon, Rutland county, Vermont, in 1825. His parents were Luke and Esther (Call) Strong. When he was two years of age his parents moved to Indiana and settled near Indianapolis; and in 1839 they again moved westward and settled in Galesburg, Illinois. Mr. Strong graduated from Knox College, Galesburg, in 1850, when he went to Pottsdam, New York, and read law for a year; thence going to Oquawka, where he taught school for two years. He then embarked in the photograph business at the latter place, where he remained for twenty-one years. In April, 1874, he came to Aledo and engaged in business, building the large gallery which he now occupies. He was married in 1855 to Miss Ann McKinney, eldest daughter of John McKinney, of Aledo; has two children (boys) living, Fred H. and Geo. McK., who are both graduates of the Aledo high school. Mr. Strong is a member of the masonic fraternity, and politically a republican.

DR. JAMES A. CAMPBELL, dentist, was born in 1855, in Brown county, Ohio, the only son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Williams) Campbell. He spent his boyhood upon the farm of his father, until the year 1873, when for two years he attended the Aledo academy. He began the study of dentistry with Dr. E. B. David in 1875, with whom he remained one year, and then went to Philadelphia, where he attended the Philadelphia Dental College three terms. In the spring of 1877 he returned to Aledo and opened a dental office. In September, 1878, he removed to Creston, Iowa, where he practiced his profession two years, and again returned to Aledo and opened the office which he occupies at present in his practice. Dr. Campbell was married, November 15, 1880, to Miss Laura E. Mentzor, of Aledo.

GEORGE M. COOL, druggist, was born in Aledo, September 28, 1858, and is the second son of Jacob and Margaret (McEowen) Cool. He received his education in the public schools of Aledo, and in his seventeenth year commenced learning the drug business with James M. Macy, lately deceased. He has remained ever since in the same situation, Mrs. James M. Macy (sister of Mr. Cool) owning the store, and Mr. Cool doing the business.

JAMES H. RAMSEY, jeweler, was born in Cadiz, Ohio, February 14,

1847; he is the second son of John and Nancy Ramsey. He attended school at Cadiz till his fourteenth year, when he was apprenticed to G. B. Barrett, jeweler, of Cadiz, and served six years, when he went into business for himself. He remained in Cadiz for two years, when he sold out his business and went to Freeport, Pennsylvania, where he remained one year, and then went to Greencastle, Indiana, and was there about one year when he came to Aledo, where he commenced business in May, 1871, and where he now remains. Mr. Ramsey was married February 29, 1876, to Miss Sallie Willson, eldest daughter of J. M. Willson, Esq., of Aledo, and has two small children.

JOHN F. MCBRIDE, dealer in dry goods, was born November 23, 1853, in Ohio Grove township, Mercer county; he is the eldest son of J. C. and H. E. (Williams) McBride. He came to Aledo in 1870, and began his business career as clerk in the dry goods house of Poage & Seters, in January, 1871, in which capacity he remained till the year 1877, when he embarked in trade for himself in the dry goods business in partnership with Geo. P. Graham. In the fall of 1880 he bought out his partner's interest and has been since in business for himself. Mr. McBride was married May 13, 1879, to Miss Edna D. Kirlin, of New Boston. He is a member of the masonic fraternity, and by political faith a republican.

REV. THOMAS B. TURNBULL was born April 27, 1847, in Warren county, Illinois; his parents were David and Nancy (Mitchell) Turnbull. His boyhood was passed upon the farm of his father, the management of which devolved upon him at the age of sixteen by reason of the enlistment of his three older brothers in the army at the beginning of the war of the rebellion. In 1863 he entered Monmouth College and graduated from that institution in June, 1870. He spent the next three years in studying theology, attending the United Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Monmouth two years, and the Allegheny City Seminary one year, and was licensed to preach August, 1872. Receiving a call the same year from the United Presbyterian congregation of Aledo, which was accepted, he was ordained and installed pastor thereof in April, 1873; of this church he is the present pastor. Mr. Turnbull was married April 24, 1873, to Miss Jean M. Horne, of Monmouth, Illinois, and has three children living: Willie, David and Susie, aged six years, four years, and eight months, respectively. His eldest child, a daughter, died at the age of seven years.

M. E. FELIX, dealer in dry goods, was born in March, 1828, in eastern Pennsylvania, and is the youngest son of Francis and Rose A. Felix. His boyhood, till his seventeenth year, was passed upon the farm of his father, at which period he was apprenticed to the cabinet



maker's trade, at which he served his time, and for which services he never received a dollar of pay. Mr. Felix came west about the year 1847, and settled for a time in Iowa City, Iowa, from where he went to Quincy, Illinois, and worked at his trade a short time, and went to Indiana. He came back to Illinois, and about the year 1850 or 1851, went into the dry goods business in Rock Island county, where he remained till 1876, when he came to Aledo and established himself in his present location and business. Mr. Felix was married in 1854, to Miss Eliza Vanatta, of Illinois City, Rock Island county, Illinois, and has four children: Rose, Benjamin (who is married to Miss Clara Woods, and is in business with his father), Emma, and Lizzie. Mr. Felix belongs to the masonic fraternity, is president of the board of trustees of Aledo, and politically is a republican.

TYLER McWHORTER was born in Steuben county, New York, August 29, 1815. His parent's names were James and Anna (Parker) McWhorter. His ancestry on his father's side was Scotch. The name of Tyler was given him by reason of the fact that his grandmother, whose maiden name was Tyler, was first cousin of president John Tyler, of Virginia. Mr. McWhorter never had the advantage of a regular college course of education, but his leisure hours, both in his early and later life, were devoted to a studious and searching course of reading. At the age of twenty-one he went to Branch county Michigan, where he followed school teaching, and during two years had charge of the public school of Coldwater, the county seat of Branch county, Michigan. While engaged in teaching he applied his leisure time to a close study of higher mathematics, and was subsequently elected county surveyor of Branch county. He married his first wife in Michigan, in May, 1842. She was a woman of culture, though of a delicate physical organization. In the spring of 1845 he moved from Michigan to Illinois, and located in Duncan township, Mercer county, three miles west of Millersburg, and engaged in horticulture. His nursery, under the name of "Pome Roy Nursery," became extensively known and patronized. At his Pome Roy place, he raised an extensive market orchard, which is the largest in the county. His horticultural business afforded an ample field of investigation for the inquiring proclivities of his mind. During the early years of his residence in Mercer county, Mr. McWhorter was elected school commissioner of the county, an office which he held for two successive terms. Also, while a resident of Duncan township, he held for twenty years the office of township treasurer. Mr. McWhorter, by his first wife, had three children, all of whom are living in Iowa. He married his present wife August, 1859, her maiden name was Clara M. Luce. Of this

union there is one child, a boy, Laon A. McWhorter, now twenty years of age, who lives with his parents. In the spring of 1869, Mr. McWhorter moved from his Pome Roy place to his present location, one mile south of Aledo. Mr. McW. has been connected with the horticultural societies of the State for nearly thirty years. In 1869, he presided over the State Horticultural Society of Illinois, and in 1873 presided over the northern state society. Mr. McWhorter is continually a student of nature. What time he could spare from secular business has been devoted to scientific investigation; allowing himself also some time to travel, he made a trip to Vicksburg during the war, and has since made an extensive tour of the southern states. He has been for eleven years a member of the "American Association for the Advancement of Science," in attending the annual meetings of which he has had occasion to visit various parts of the United States and Canada. He is also a member of the State Natural History Society, of Illinois. Mr. McWhorter, though now in his sixty-eighth year, is in complete possession of all his natural strong faculties of both mind and body, is hale and hearty and thoroughly enjoys life.

MILTON S. BOISE was born in Burgettstown, Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1827; came west in 1854, and settled in Geneseo, Henry county, Illinois, and went into the grocery business, which he carried on for some three or four years, when, after spending a year or so looking up a favorable place for business, he came to Aledo, and went into the book and news business, the first house of that character started in the place. This business he carried on for over two years, when he started a soap factory, and also a wholesale grocery, queensware and notion store, which business he is now engaged in, running two store rooms in different parts of the town. Mr. Boise was married in 1846 to Miss Rebecca Mitchell, of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. They have two children living, Joseph, aged twenty-two, and Horace, fourteen. Mr. Boise is a trustee of the congregational church of Aledo, is a member of the masonic fraternity, and in politics is a member of the democratic party.

DR. E. B. DAVID, dentist, was born in Ontario county, New York, June 8, 1835; his parents were Uri and Catharine David, and they moved to Michigan when he was three years old and settled in Jackson county. The doctor remained in Michigan till the spring of 1858, when he came to Mercer county. In 1853 he began the study of dentistry with Dr. M. S. Dean, of Marshall, Michigan, now of Chicago. Dr. David entered the union army during the war of the rebellion. He enlisted August 12, 1861, in the 30th Ill. Inf., and served three years and three months. His army experience embraced the engage-



ments of Belmont, Fort Donelson, siege of Corinth, Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson (Mississippi), Champion Hill, Vicksburg, and siege of Atlanta. He was mustered out at Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 17, 1864, with the rank of captain, in command of company A, 30th Ill. Inf. He then came back to Mercer county and settled in New Windsor, where he owned a farm, working at dentistry part of the time. Here he remained till November, 1873, when he came to Aledo and commenced his practice, and where he now remains, the senior partner of the firm of David & Coulson. Dr. David was a member of the Aledo town board of trustees for four terms, from 1876 to 1880, during the last two years serving as president of the body. He has been a member of the county agricultural board for nine years, and is a member of the state board of agriculture. Dr. D. was married September 1, 1862, to Miss Lizzie Woodham, of New Windsor, and has five children. He is a member of the Baptist church, and by political faith is a republican.

WILLIAM ANDERSON COLE was born in Brown county, Ohio, in 1847, and is the son of Aaron and Mary Ellen Cole. He lived in Brown county, Ohio, till he was twenty-two years of age, working on a farm during his boyhood (going to school during the winter), up to the period of his removal. He settled in Viola, Mercer county, in 1871. He was the first colored man who drove the United States mail in the State of Illinois, he being so engaged during the years 1872 and 1873. He came to Aledo and commenced working at the barber trade in 1874, still carrying on the business under the firm name of Cole & Wade. He was married in 1872, to Miss Catharine Glasscock, and they have three children living. Mr. Cole puts himself on record as a member of the republican party.

JOHN WEBSTER DILLEY was born in Mercer county in January, 1840. His parents, William and Eliza (Moorehead) Dilley, were among the early settlers of Mercer county. The subject of this sketch spent most of his life upon a farm, and was so engaged upon the breaking out of the war, when, on July 24, 1862, he enlisted in the army in Co. H, 84th Ill. Inf. He participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Look-out mountain, Mission Ridge, siege of Chattanooga, Ringgold, Georgia, campaign of Atlanta, Franklin, and Nashville, and was mustered out June 8, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee. In 1869 he was elected county clerk, and held that office four years; for a short time after this he was engaged in the grocery business, and again went upon the farm and spent several years, when he finally removed to Aledo. He filled the office of deputy sheriff of the county for two years, after which he was elected justice of the peace, which office he still retains, and is also clerk

of the town of Aledo. He was married in October, 1865, to Miss Mary J. Rose, and has three children. He is a member of the republican party.

BENJAMIN F. THOMPSON was born in Clinton county, Ohio, March 28, 1829, he being the youngest son of Dr. A. W. and Elizabeth (Scarff) Thompson. When a child his parents moved to Lawrenceburgh, Indiana, where they lived several years, and then moved back to Xenia, Ohio, where his father practiced his profession till his death. When about sixteen years old Mr. Thompson went to Washington C. H., Ohio, and clerked in a dry goods store for six years, when he came west and settled in New Boston, Mercer county, Illinois, where he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, J. C. Bell, in the dry goods and pork packing business. In this business he continued until 1859, when he sold his interest to his partner. Under the first administration of President Lincoln Mr. Thompson was appointed postmaster of New Boston and held the office for about eight years, when he resigned, and in 1871 came to Aledo and went into his present business of real estate dealer and collector. He has been in Aledo since the above date with the exception of a year's absence in 1875 which he spent in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Thompson was married in 1858 to Miss Josie C. Denison, of New Boston. They have had four children, only one of whom is living, a son eleven years of age. Politically Mr. Thompson is a democrat.

REV. JOHN T. HOYE was born in Trigg county, Kentucky, April 6, 1852, he being the second son of Henry and Elizabeth Hoyer. He left Kentucky with his parents when about seven years of age, they settling in northern Missouri, and living there till the close of the war, when they removed to Kansas City. Mr. Hoyer had the advantage of the common schools in boyhood and in his twenty-third year entered the William Jewell College, of Liberty, Missouri, with a view of preparing himself for the ministry. He attended here for five years, when he entered the Baptist Theological Seminary of Louisville, Kentucky, after attending which for two years he began missionary work in Missouri, where he labored a short time, and after preaching a short time in Reynolds, this state, he was called to preach for his present charge, the Baptist church of Aledo. Mr. Hoyer was married June 29, 1881, to Miss Lucy W. DeHoney, of Louisville, Kentucky.

J. M. WILLIS was born in 1849 in Guernsey county, Ohio, and is the son of Robert and Prudence (Spear) Willis. He left Guernsey county when nineteen years of age and went to Cass county, Missouri, where he farmed for six years. He then came to Mercer county and went to farming, at which he continued for five years, when he was



appointed superintendent of the Mercer county infirmary, which position he now holds. Mr. Willis was married in 1872 to Miss Mary J. Ashmhurst, of Aledo. He is a member of the masonic order and politically is a republican.

CHARLES W. DETWILER was born and raised in Mercer county. He went to school in Aledo, and began learning the trade of a tinsmith with H. Holmes in 1872, with whom he worked four years, since which time he has been in business with his father and brother. The firm of Detwiler Brothers was formed in 1881. Mr. Detwiler is a member of the Presbyterian church and a member of the citizens' cornet band of Aledo, and is a republican in politics.

LEWIS CASS DETWILER was born June 1, 1860, and is the youngest son of Eli and Martha Detwiler of Aledo. He was born in Mercer county and went to the public schools of Aledo, learned his trade of tinsmith with his brother Charles, and entered the firm of Detwiler Brothers as partner in 1881. The firm do a general hardware, stove and tinware trade.

SAMUEL BROWN, retired farmer, was born May 13, 1823, in Breckinridge county, Kentucky. His parents, Alfred and Mary (Mordock) Brown, were born, raised and married in Kentucky. About 1830 they emigrated, making their homes in Knox county, Illinois, bringing their five children: James N., Samuel, Harmon, Taylor, and William. In Knox county were born: Alfred T., Mary, Sally A., and Abigail. The elder Brown died in 1866. Mr. Brown was for a time in the Black Hawk war, receiving land as a reward. Samuel was reared on the farm, and in the rude log cabin. He was educated with his fellows in the log hall of learning. He was married June 1, 1854, to Caroline Greenwood, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Legg) Greenwood. Her parents were early settlers of Suez township, Mercer county. Mr. Brown settled in Suez township, purchasing a farm there. After selling and buying, etc., he located in North Henderson, where he became owner of a half-section of good land. He sold and moved into Aledo in the spring of 1882. He is one of the many who have made farming a success, and has aided in reclaiming the soil from its wild state. His children are: Harmon G. (dead), Maxy (now Mrs. George G. Cheney), George E. (an Aledo liveryman), Grant, Mary E., Samuel T., and Katy G. Mr. Brown has property in Aledo.

LOAMMI BROWN, liveryman, is a son of Richard G. and Rebecca (Moore) Brown. Richard Brown was born in Ohio, and his wife in Virginia. He became an early settler of Iowa. Loammi, the eldest of four children, was born in Iowa Territory, February 22, 1840. He enlisted in the civil war August 11, 1862, in company G, 124th reg.

Ill. Vol. Inf., Capt. Scudder and Col. Sloan. He took part in many skirmishes and in the engagements of Port Gibson, Champion Hill, Black River, Fort Jackson, et al. He served till July 17, 1865, when he was mustered out at Rock Island. He resumed farming in Mercer county. He has also dealt heavily in stock-raising and trading. In November, 1875, he purchased the John S. Moore livery stables, and has since lived in Aledo, where he has a good property. In politics he is decidedly democratic. Mr. Brown was married November 12, 1865, to Amanda J. Melton, daughter of R. G. and Susan Melton, of Mercer county. She is a native of Rock Island county, Illinois. They have had five children: Susie, Loammi, Jennie, Minnie, and Richard.

## SUEZ TOWNSHIP.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The broad domain of Illinois did not afford a more inviting spot to the eye of the early pioneer than the territory embraced within the lines of what is now known as Suez township; consequently that part of Mercer county has kept pace with any part of the state in settlement, in thrift, and in religious and educational progress. Along the crystal streams that flow through the township an abundance of timber grew, and, underlying portions of the township, inexhaustible beds of coal are found. Back from the streams a beautiful expanse of fertile prairie greeted the eye of the observer; and, shortly after the close of the Black Hawk war, the snug log cabin began to take the place of the Indian wigwam; the white-topped wagon, the lowing of cattle, and the sound of the axe announced the fact that the day of civilization was dawning. Among the first to cast their lot in Suez township we find the following names: David Williams and George Blake came together from the State of Indiana in 1835, the former locating on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 22, and the latter on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21. In the same year James Stewart and family, Robert Pollock and family, and William Moore and family came from the State of Ohio. Mr. Moore located on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5, James Stewart on N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21, Robert Pollock on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 27.

In 1835 Harison Brown, formerly a resident of Kentucky, came and located on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1. William Martin came in the same year, and located on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5. In 1834 James Baine entered a claim on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29.



The first birth in the township was the daughter of George Blake, who was born in 1835. The first marriage occurred in the same year, the contracting parties being Robert Caldwell and Miss Mary Pollock. The first death was that of Mrs. Preston, daughter of Robert Pollock, which occurred in 1841.

In 1837 Asa Ransom, a native of New York, located on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 3. In 1838 John Mauk located half a mile north of Suez postoffice. In 1837 the Pease family came and located on section 20. In 1840 John and William Lafferty came from Trumbull county, Ohio, the former locating on section 21 and the latter on section 22. In 1841 John Greenwood bought the claim owned by Henry B. Fleharty and located thereon. The Bridger family were also among the earliest settlers. William Moore was the first blacksmith in the township, and William Martin the first carpenter.

The only road laid out through the township, at the time of the earliest settlement, was one running from Macomb to Galena, which extended diagonally across it from the southeast to the northwest corner. The first bridge was constructed on North Henderson creek, where the Macomb and Galena road crossed it, in 1838 or 1839. The structure was built of oak logs, which were split and the flat sides turned downward, the hollows on the top being filled with earth.

The first school-house in the township was erected by Robert Pollock, James Stewart, Samuel Shaw, and Mr. Pease in 1837, on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21. This rude structure was built of logs, with a clap-board roof, doors of the same material, and puncheon floor. In this building the first religious services were held, the sermon being preached by a traveling minister of the Baptist persuasion. The first teacher to wield his hickory within the walls of this antiquated building was R. Caldwell.

The first church built was the Associate Reform, which stood on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, and which was erected in 1841.

The first postoffice was established at the residence of Moses Decker, on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 3, in 1840. The next one was established on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 22, and was called North Henderson, Robert Pollock officiating as postmaster. Later the name was changed to Norwood. In 1839 a saw mill was built by Pelatiah Pease on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21 on the banks of North Henderson creek, being propelled by the waters of that stream. In 1873 a steam grist mill was built by C. S. Hart at Norwood.

The first coal mined in the township was taken from section 21 by Mr. Ditto in 1837.

There are at present four stone quarries in the township, located on

sections, 19, 21, 22, and 29. The rock produced from these quarries is of a good quality, and the supply inexhaustible.

An abundance of timber grows along the banks of North Henderson creek, oak, hickory, walnut, linn, hard maple and elm being the predominant kinds. An occasional honey locust and coffee tree may be seen. Wild crab apples, gooseberries, plums, grapes, strawberries and blackberries, abounded in early times.

The fences in early times were made exclusively of rails. The first hedge was grown by John Lafferty.

The settlers used farming implements that would bring a smile to the countenance of our modern farmers. Their plows had wooden mold-boards, and their harrows were all of wood. William Lafferty states that the first plow he used in the west was one with a wooden mold-board. He started in with the clumsy affair, where the weeds and prairie grass were higher than his head. He rooted along without regard to sectional lines, furrows, angles, or corners, and by night found he had rooted over about twelve acres. The land appeared as if a drove of long-nosed hogs had been turned loose on it. Mr. Lafferty states that he planted his corn in it, but for reasons best known to himself did not return to look at it until after harvest.

The early settlers along North Henderson creek did the principal part of their trading in Oquawka and Peoria. Grain was frequently hauled to Chicago, and sold at a very low price. Asa Ransom states that he once worked a week with a yoke of oxen to thresh out and haul to the house of his creditor a hundred bushels of oats, which went to liquidate a debt of five dollars. Dressed pork brought \$1 to \$1.50 per hundred. Mr. Ransom once gave 1,100 pounds of pork for a pair of pantaloons, after having hauled it to Rock Island.

This stringency in monetary affairs existed from 1840 to 1848. During that period it was almost impossible for the farmers to get money with which to pay for their claims when the land came into market. Money was sometimes borrowed at fifty per cent. for this purpose.

Wolf hunts in early times were of frequent occurrence. Large numbers of the settlers would turn out on these occasions. They were carried on in the following manner: a meeting was called, captains elected, and a day chosen for the hunt. Every settler for miles around would generally be on hand, and every musket, shot-gun, rifle, and pistol was brought into requisition. The lines would form at a uniform distance from the appointed place, and at a given signal from their respective captains would advance, from all points of the compass, keeping time to the melodious music of the hound and the hunts-



man's bugle. The wolf, with his usual cunning, would usually make his escape, however, before the point was reached, and the hunt would prove fruitless so far as wolf-scalps were concerned.

On the night of August 10, 1851, a terrible wind and rain storm visited the southern part of the county, which, owing to its disastrous results, will long be remembered by those who witnessed it. For about four hours the rain fell in sheets; every brook and rivulet was swelled into a mad, roaring torrent. The waters of North Henderson creek rose about fifteen feet above their normal height. Every bridge, from its source to the Mississippi, was carried away before the rushing flood. This was the most severe tempest in the recollection of the oldest settlers. It is said that barrels standing in dooryards, away from buildings, were actually filled with water.

The coldest winter in the recollection of the old residents was that of 1842-43. On November 12 Jack Frost "came down from the north" and held high carnival until the following April. During the month of March the sun shone brightly every day, but so firm was the grasp of the winter king on the shrouded earth that its rays were without effect.

#### ORGANIZATION.

Previous to April 4, 1854, this township was known by the name of Palmyra. It was ascertained however that the name of Palmyra had previously been conferred on another township and postoffice in the state, and consequently the name was abandoned and a new one substituted at the time of organization.

On the date above mentioned a meeting was held at the residence of Henry Bridger, at which the township was organized and officers elected. The names of the first officers chosen are as follows: supervisor, Thomas Likely; town clerk, John B. Hoag; assessor, William Lafferty; collector, F. M. Postlewaite; overseer of the poor, James E. Ray; commissioners of highways, Harison Brown, John Lafferty, William McGreenwood; justices of the peace, Robert Pollock, J. O. Edwards; constables, David Molar, A. Trask.

#### SUEZ POSTOFFICE.

What is now known as Suez postoffice was established in 1842, Henry Bridger being the first postmaster. The office was then known as Pope Creek, and still more generally known as Bridger's Corners.

In 1851 Asa Ransom erected a hotel building at the Corners, where for many years he did a thriving business. Towns being few and far between, emigrants on their way westward would always aim for Bridger's Corners, for a stopping place.



*Harrison Brown*





Samuel Shove opened the first store. He was succeeded by Mr. Turner, who was followed by Mr. Nourse. Messrs. Shaw, Mauk and Sedwick also did business successively at the Corners. James Page is now running a grocery, and is the present postmaster.

The school-house at Suez, commonly known as the "White Lilly" school, was erected in 1851, a Miss Stuart, of Greene township, being the first teacher.

In August, 1881, a band was organized at Suez, consisting of a few of the music-loving gentlemen of that locality. The names of the performers are as follows: C. L. Ransom, E flat cornet; John C. Bowers, B flat cornet; Charles Furr, B flat cornet; Ezra Hartzell, first alto; H. Woltham, second alto; P. F. Mauk, tenor; J. Hughes, B Bass; James Page, E flat tuba.

#### THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The above-named congregation was the outgrowth of a union of the "Associate" and "Associate Reform" churches. In 1842, by order of the Associate Presbytery, of Iowa, the Rev. James G. Bruce preached in a small wooden house at the crossing of the roads one mile west of Norwood, which was then the residence of S. L. Brownlee, and organized the Associate congregation, of North Henderson. The membership then numbered fifteen, whose names are as follows: James, Elizabeth, and Nancy Imbrie; Robert and Mary Caldwell; John Humphreys and wife; S. L. and Sarah Brownlee; William and Mary Jane Caldwell; John W. and Sarah A. Caldwell, and Samuel and Margaret Graham. James Imbrie and Robert Caldwell were chosen elders.

For some time services were held in the little dwelling, except in pleasant weather, when the people would assemble under the trees to listen to the divine teachings. Lumber wagons drawn by oxen were the only conveyances. The men in checkered shirts and the women in plain calicoes came from far and near to listen to the teachings of the scripture. These were the men and women who paved the way for civilization, and made smooth the paths for those who were to follow. Should one of those humble worshipers enter a church in one of our towns or cities to-day, cold indeed would be the reception with which he would meet. The domed and frescoed ceiling, the rich carpets, the upholstered seats, the people in gaudy attire, and the great pipe-organ would present a strange scene to him, and we fear he would feel that he was not welcome there.

In the fall of 1844 a call was made in connection with the Liberty congregation for the services of Mr. R. W. French, and by him



accepted. October 26, in that same little dwelling in which the infant congregation was organized, he was ordained, the brothers James and William Bruce, being the officiating ministers. The young pastor entered upon his duties cheerfully, although the salary was very small. The house in which he was obliged to live afforded a very poor shelter for his wife and little ones against the summer rains and winter blast. In the following year James Graham gave a lot from his farm recently purchased, and a number of able-bodied men turned out and erected a plain but comfortable dwelling thereon, and the pastor was soon occupying more pleasant quarters.

An amusing anecdote is related of the reverend gentleman that is worth repeating. It was Saturday morning, as they supposed, when Mrs. French, having an errand to perform, went to a neighbor's house, and meanwhile her husband began some work on his lot. Imagine her surprise on being told on her arrival at the neighbor's that it was Sunday, and people were by that time seen wending their way toward the church. She went home and informed her husband of the fact. He dropped his tools, donned his Sunday garments, and hastened to the church, where he found most of his congregatton waiting for services to begin.

In 1846 the first church building was erected, being two miles west and a mile south from Norwood. The place is still marked by the cemetery. At the end of four years Mr. French was at his own request released from the charge of the congregation. After a brief period of vacancy the congregations of South creek and Bethel were united with that of North Henderson in one charge, and they united in a call for the pastoral services of the Rev. Nathaniel McDowel, which was accepted. His installation took place in the Smith creek church. In 1854 the pastoral relations were dissolved.

During the second period of vacancy, extending over almost two years and a half, a very decided current of emigration carried prosperity to the rising congregation. Eighty-seven names were added to its membership. In the month of September, 1866, a call was extended to the Rev. J. A. Edie, which was by him accepted, and on the following March he took charge of the congregation. At his ordination and installation, Revs. A. A. Rogers and John Scott, D.D., officiated.

#### THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED BRANCH.

In the early days of North Henderson there appeared many warm adherents of the Associate Reformed church. On May 12, 1856, the Rev. M. M. Bigger, by direction of the Associate Reformed Presbytery, of Monmouth, preached in the Associate Reformed church at Spring

Grove, where he organized the Associate Reformed church of North Henderson, and twenty-one names were enrolled. On the same day the Spring Grove and North Henderson congregations each extended a call for the half-time services of the Rev. J. C. McKnight, which was by him accepted, and in the following June he was installed in the united charge and entered upon his labors. This pastorate was brief, ending in the release of Mr. McKnight from his charge in the month of March, 1858.

On June 14, 1858, a joint meeting of the Associate and Associate Reformed congregations of North Henderson was held in the Associate church, at which it was agreed that the two congregations would unite in one organization, which has since been known as the United Presbyterian church.

After the union of the two branches it became necessary to erect a larger and more commodious church building. Accordingly during the summer of 1859 the neat, comfortable building, in which the congregation still worships, was erected. The building is situated one mile west of Norwood, is 45×72 feet in size, and cost about \$5,000.

During the dark hours of the rebellion, that began soon after, the congregation gave their undivided support to the union cause. Many of its members bade farewell to friends and relatives, to the happy associations that made the old homes dear, and went forth to defend the principles they loved. The gray-haired father and mother knelt under the roof of their cottage home and prayed for the success of the flag, while their sons marched forth to the wild music of war, and gave up their lives in its defense.

Mr. Edie, the pastor, spent some time in the army, administering to the spiritual wants of the soldiers in camp, and to the heroes as they laid mangled and blackened on the field of battle.

After the close of the war Mr. Edie continued his labors for several years, but finally desiring to change the field of his labors, he offered his resignation. Being strongly urged by his congregation to remain for a time, he decided to do so. In 1869 he again offered his resignation, which was reluctantly accepted. During the period of eleven years, through which Mr. Edie's pastorate extended, 338 persons were added to the roll of membership.

In April, 1872, a call was made to the Rev. J. M. French, which was accepted. He entered immediately upon his labors and had charge of the congregation three and a half years, during which time seventy-six were added to the roll of membership. In June, 1876, the Rev. J. T. McCrory took charge of the congregation and was officially installed in April, 1877, and was released in 1880.



In 1881 the Rev. W. A. Spalding began his labors and was installed by the Rock Island Presbytery August 23 of the same year. In the past few years this congregation has greatly decreased in number, owing to the fact that many of the members have sought homes in the western states, but it is still one of the largest and most prosperous in the county.

The Sunday school in connection with the church is in a very prosperous condition, the average attendance being about one hundred. The land on which the church stands was donated by David Molar. The parsonage stands one mile south of the church on land donated for the purpose by Thomas Likely.

#### THE CEMETERY.

“What is death? ’Tis to be free—  
No more to hope, to love, nor fear.”

Contiguous to the grounds owned by the Presbyterian church is located the Norwood cemetery. The first person buried here was a child of Alexander McKenstry in 1854.

The association which has this cemetery in charge was organized under the state law in 1877, and received its charter in 1881. The present officers are: president, Thomas Likely; secretary, George M. Evans; treasurer, John Hutchison; trustees, John Lafferty, J. D. Porter, William P. Morgan. The neatly kept grounds indicate the feeling of reverence and love entertained by the surrounding community for their departed dead.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The initiatory movement of organizing this society was made by the members of the Monmouth Presbyterian church, who resided in the vicinity of North Henderson. A meeting was called and held in a school-house on Section 29, on March 17, 1853. R. C. Mathews was chosen chairman, and J. D. Porter secretary.

It was unanimously agreed to petition Schuyler Presbytery to organize a church at Norwood, and J. D. Porter was selected to present the said petition. For some reason not shown by the records the church was not organized at that time.

In the spring of 1854, F. Postlewaite, S. R. Boggs and Thomas Likely were appointed a building committee, and a church building, for which purpose funds had already been raised, was begun. The committee contracted with Russell & McFarland, of Oquawka, Illinois, to erect a frame building, 36×49, which was to cost about \$2,100. The building was begun in the fall of 1854 and completed in the spring

of 1855. In that year, a petition, signed by thirty-six members of the Presbyterian church, and eleven persons who were members of no denomination, was presented to the Presbytery of Schuyler, which met in Knoxville, in April of 1855, being in accordance with the sentiment of the members who held the first meeting, viz: that a church should be organized at North Henderson. The prayer of the petition was granted, and Rev. R. C. Mathews and the Rev. T. S. Vaile, with elders John Eiken, of Knoxville, and A. C. Gregg, of Monmouth, were appointed to organize the church. The committee met in the new building at North Henderson, July 7, and proceeded to organize the society. Forty names were enrolled, twenty-four of whom had formerly been members of the Monmouth congregation. Messrs. J. R. Boggs, R. W. Porter, and S. R. Boggs, were chosen elders, and Thomas Likely, M. T. Postlewaite and T. S. Robb, were chosen trustees. No regular pastor was employed by the congregation until June, 1856, when J. H. Nevius began his labor, as stated supply, and was installed as pastor, November 11, of the same year. Mr. Nevius officiated as pastor until April, 1863, when he was succeeded by Rev. George Norcross, who acted as stated supply until June 6, 1865, when he was officially installed as pastor, in which capacity he served about a year.

The Rev. J. H. Moore was the next pastor called upon to take charge of the congregation. Mr. Moore began his labors on June 2, 1867, but was not installed until November 2 of the same year. This gentleman served as pastor until March, 1876, when he removed to a new field of labor.

The church was without a pastor until January, 1877, when Rev. E. B. Miner began his ministerial labors with them. Mr. Miner was installed in the summer of the same year. His relation as pastor was continued until 1881 when he relinquished his charge.

On April 1, 1881, the Rev. I. T. Whitmore responded to a call from the congregation and entered upon his duties as pastor. This gentleman still has charge of the congregation.

On December 3, 1880, the name of the church was changed from North Henderson to Norwood. The present membership is 206. Since the organization of the congregation, four hundred and fifty-four names have been added to the list of membership. The names of the elders who have been successfully chosen by the congregation are as follows: James Boggs, R. W. Porter, and S. R. Boggs were elected on July 7, 1855; James C. Stewart, elected November 19, 1855; James C. Postlewaite, elected November 19, 1855; Robert Woods was elected January 18, 1860; Joseph B. Stewart, elected January 18, 1860;



Robert Holloway, elected December 26, 1869; J. B. Laferty and M. S. Campbell were chosen in September, 1879.

#### THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

The society of the above name was organized December 20, 1873, by the Rev. P. R. Adams. The first trustees were: H. R. Peters, George W. Sedwick, and John McLaughlin. Their church building was erected in the summer of 1875. The building and grounds costing fourteen hundred and fifty dollars. The building was dedicated August 6 of the same year by the presiding elder, N. A. Walker. The membership at the time of organization numbered thirty-six, but now numbers only ten.

The present pastor is the Rev. Orin Dilley, who is located at Alexis, Warren county. The building is situated on section 10.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

In 1875 a number of citizens of the above persuasion, with the liberal assistance of the enterprising people of other denominations, erected a neat church building two miles west of Suez postoffice. The building is 36×40 in size, and stands on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 8.

Owing to the weakness of the society, no regular pastor is employed by them. The membership at present numbers ten.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

GEORGE A., son of Christian and Catharine Shearer, was born in Herkimer county, New York, April 17, 1828. When sixteen years of age the family came to Licking county, Ohio, where they resided nine years. In 1853 they removed to Moultrie county, Illinois, and remained one year, after which they went to Stark county, remaining until 1859, when they came to Mercer county, where they bought land in section 18, Suez township. The father died in June, 1861. The subject of this sketch was first married, August 24, 1852, to Miss Sarah A. Whitten, who died in the winter of 1861. He was again married, May 27, 1862, to Miss Sarah J. Morgan. The names of his children are as follows: Mary C., Margaret H., Anna B., Fannie R., Cora B., Sadie (deceased), Nellie R., Blanche E., Fred. M., and George O. Of these the two former are by his first wife. Mr. Shearer now resides on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 17, which he purchased in 1865.

DAN. W., son of Washington and Elizabeth Sedwick, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1834. When twelve years of age he went to Lawrence county, where he was engaged two years as clerk in a dry goods and grocery store. At the end of that

time he went to Columbiana county, Ohio, where he remained one year and a-half, where he was engaged in farming and sheep-driving. From here he returned to the town of Mercer, in Pennsylvania, where he was employed as turnkey in the county jail under Sheriff McKean, in which capacity he acted about six months, after which he went to Crawford county and located at Steuben, on Oil creek, where he remained a few months and then went to Centerville, where he remained about five years, doing general work around a store and saw-mill. In 1855 he emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, and located at Bridger's Corners. During the two following years his time was occupied alternately in teaching and clerking. On September 3, 1857, Mr. Sedwick was married to Miss Frances A. Bridger, a native of Troy, New York, and daughter of Henry Bridger, one of the pioneer settlers of the county. The fruits of the union are six children, whose names in the order of their ages are as follows: Ida E., Cora A., Henry D. (deceased), Edwin E., Bertram B., and Fannie M. In the spring of 1857 he was appointed postmaster at Pope Creek, which position he held until 1870. In the same year he purchased the stock of goods owned by his employers and embarked in business for himself. In the fall of 1862 he enlisted as a private in Co. E, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. When the company was organized he was elected first lieutenant, and on April 28, 1863, to the position of captain. In 1865 he received the following letter from the secretary of war:

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 19, 1865.

SIR,—You are hereby informed that the President of the United States has appointed you, for gallant and meritorious conduct during the war, a major of volunteers by brevet in the service of the United States, to rank as such from the 13th day of March, 1865. Should the senate at their next session advise and consent thereto, you will be commissioned accordingly.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Brevet-Major Dan. W. Sedwick, U. S. Vol.

No further comment is necessary concerning the bravery and fidelity with which he served his country. In 1866 Mr. Sedwick was elected to the legislature, where he represented his district for a term of two years. In 1870 he sold out his store, purchased a farm south of Bridger's Corners, and since that time has devoted his entire attention to tilling the soil. He is a member of the Mercer County Agricultural Board, and during the year 1879 acted as president of that body. He is also president of the Soldiers and Sailors' Association, of Mercer county.

LORIMER JOHNSTON, a portrait of whom appears in this book, son of Andrew and Mary Johnston, was born in Richland county, Ohio, November 20, 1820. He resided in that county until 1850, in which year



he went to California, crossing the plains with a wagon and a mule team. He located on the Middle Fork of the American river and there engaged in mining in company with his brother, William. After having accumulated a considerable amount of wealth his brother started back to their native state, but died on the way of "Panama fever," and their hard earnings stolen from his person after death. In the spring of 1852, Lorimer returned to Ohio and remained until 1857, when he came to Mercer county. In 1864, he bought land in section 13, Suez township. He now owns a farm of 415 acres, the results of economy and industry. Mr. Johnston was married July 3, 1849, to Miss Hannah Hayes, a native of Guernsey county, Ohio. The fruit of this union are five children, William S., Park R., Michael H., Flora M. (deceased), and Laura A.

THOMAS LIKELY, whose portrait appears in this book, son of William and Agnes (Taylor) Likely, was born January 29, 1823, in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania. The family on both the father and mother's side are of Irish origin. His father came from Ireland in 1791 and located in the Tuscarora valley. He had six sons and five daughters. Of these Thomas is the youngest but one. He was raised a farmer, assisting his father perform his labors. He was married September 26, 1844, to Miss Diana A. Doyle, also a native of Huntingdon county. The fruits of this union are ten children, whose names in the order of their ages, are as follows: Ann E. (deceased), Agnes J. (now the wife of E. L. Simpson, of Ringgold county, Iowa), Martha B. (wife of J. C. Foster, of the same county), William D. (deceased in infancy), Henry T. (deceased), Thomas D. (now residing in Buena Vista county, Iowa), Lyman L., Samuel R. (also of Buena Vista county, Iowa), William M., and Mary J. For about three years he was engaged in landing general merchandise in Trough creek valley, Huntingdon county. In the spring of 1850 he came to Pike county, Illinois, and remained until fall, after which he went to La Salle by boat; after arriving here he set out on foot to find a suitable place to locate. He traveled in this manner over Lee, Henry, Whiteside, Ogle, Bureau and La Salle counties, and failing to find a place to suit his taste, he came to old Mercer and bought land in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, in Suez township. In 1858 he was elected justice of the peace. At the beginning of the war he received authority from Adjutant-General Fuller to organize a company, which he did in seven days, and was chosen captain. The company was afterward attached to the 102d Ill. Inf., and known as company E. He remained with that regiment until April, 1863, when he resigned on account of disabilities, and was succeeded by D. W. Sedwick. In the winter of 1863 he was elected

major of the regiment by vote of the regimental officers. In 1873 he was elected county judge, in which capacity he served four years.

HARISON BROWN, whose portrait appears in this book, son of Samuel and Henrietta Brown, was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, March 17, 1808. When eight years of age his father removed to Breckenridge county, Kentucky, and remained until the fall of 1834, when he emigrated to Illinois and located in North Henderson township, Mercer county. In the spring of 1836 he bought land in section 1, Suez township, where he has since resided. Being one of the pioneers he has encountered all of the hardships and trials incident to pioneer life. By hard labor and economy he has accumulated a large property and in his declining years he is enjoying the fruits of his toil. He was married in the fall of 1830 to Miss Martha Greenwood, a native of Virginia. Nine children are the fruits of this union, whose names are as follows: Mary A., Samuel (deceased), Thomas, Floyd (deceased), Sally, Benjamin, Peter, and Isabel. His second son, Thomas, was a member of Capt. Sedwick's company in the 102d Ills. Inf.

ASA W. RANSOM, another of the pioneers, son of James and Phœba Ransom, was born in the town of Camillus, Onondaga county, New York, May 6, 1818. When seventeen years of age he turned his face toward the setting sun and started to Illinois by way of Buffalo and Ashtabula, thence by stage across the state of Ohio to Wellsville. From here he went by steamboat to Cairo, then up the Mississippi, landing at New Boston, June 10, 1837. On the following day he, in company his brother, started on foot toward the eastern part of the county and located on N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 3, in Suez township. In the fall he returned to Ohio, remaining until the spring of 1838. On his return he came as far as Michigan with his uncle and walked from there to Mercer county, a distance of about 300 miles. He states that at that time settlements were as high as sixty miles apart. He stopped for a short time in Chicago, and while there was offered a lot on Washington street in payment for a month's work. Mr. Ransom was married in February, 1849, to Miss Elizabeth S. Edwards, a native of Kentucky. The names of their children, in the order of their ages are as follows: Althea F., Charlora C., Chester L., Adraenna, Marcilla C., Vesta, Asa S., and Olive. In 1866 Mr. Ransom removed to Chicago and engaged in the commission business. He remained in the city four and a half years, during which time his children availed themselves of the excellent educational advantages the city affords. In the spring of 1870 he returned to his farm in Suez township, and, excepting a few months, has resided there since that time. Mr. Ransom arrived in Illinois with nothing in the way of worldly



wealth, but by hard labor and judicious management he has become one of the largest land owners in the county. He furnishes an example of pluck and perseverance, which the rising generation would do well to follow.

WILLIAM, son of Jefferson and Tabitha Fuller, was born in Millersburg township, Mercer county, October 27, 1843. He remained at home until July 26, 1862, when he enlisted in Co. H, 84th Ill. Inf., and was with that regiment until June 9, 1865. He received a wound at the battle of Stone river, from the effects of which he was confined in the hospital eleven months. He was married February 20, 1867, to Miss Joanna Brown, a native of Ohio. The names of his children are Elmer and Edgar C.

JAMES W. PAGE, son of James and Susan S. Page, was born in Sussex, England, December 15, 1840. In 1841, the family emigrated to America, and located at Hudson, Summit county, Ohio. In August, 1856, he came to Mercer county. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Co. A, 30th reg. Ill. Inf., and remained in the service of his country until August, 1864, when he was discharged. On the bottom of his discharge we find the following:

"Private James W. Page has sustained an unblemished character in the army; has been a faithful soldier, and is entitled to the gratitude of his adopted country and the confidence of all.

Signed, CHARLES TURNER, Colonel, 108th Ill. Vol."

December 20, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Annie E. Bridger, daughter of Henry Bridger, one of Mercer county's pioneers. Five children are the fruit of this union, four of whom death has claimed as his victims; Nina G. alone remains to brighten the home. Mr. Page is now located at Suez, engaged in the grocery business. He has many friends, and is highly respected by all.

ANDREW TRASK was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1813. When thirteen years of age he experienced a desire to go to sea, and accordingly obtained a position on the Trident, of New Bedford, and was on the ocean three years, being most of that time on the Pacific. He was married in 1845, to Miss Ellen Weld, who died in eighteen months after their marriage. He was again married in 1848, to Miss Lucinda Ramsey. The names of his children are as follows: Edward, Harriet, Lucina, and George. His second wife died in 1862. Mr. Trask came to Mercer county in 1850, and located on section 16, Suez township, where he still resides.

THOMAS, son of Thomas and Martha (Wilson) Spicer, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, October 2, 1823. The Spicer family are of English, and the Wilson of Irish, origin. Mr. Spicer was married in

1846, to Miss Rebbecca D. Wilson, a native of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Spicer was born December 15, 1828. The names of the children born to the couple are as follows: Oliver W., born October 26, 1848, in Ohio; Mary C., born August 30, 1851, in Ohio; James C., born December 9, 1854, in Ohio, and Thomas H., born June 9, 1858, in Illinois. In 1856, Mr. Spicer came to Warren county, Illinois, where he remained until 1859, when he removed to Mercer county, and located on section 8, in Suez township.

WILLIAM A., son of John and Grizelle (Stewart) Lafferty, was born in Suez township, December 13, 1850. The log cabin in which he was born, still stands, and is situated near his present residence. He was married in 1870, to Miss Mattie Edie, a native of Kentucky. The names of their children are as follows: John H., George G., Minnie, William L., Charles, Harry A., and Maggie. Mr. and Mrs. Lafferty are members of the United Presbyterian church.

JOHN B., son of William and Louisa Lafferty, was born in Suez township, Mercer county, Illinois, October 19, 1847. He was married August 30, 1870, to Miss Ada A. Brownlee, daughter of D. S. Brownlee, Esq., of Suez township. The fruits of this union are five children, whose names are as follows: Harry S., Maggie L., Annie M., William E., and Olive C. Mr. Lafferty owns a fine farm of 320 acres, situated on sections 15 and 27. He and Mrs. Lafferty are both members of the United Presbyterian church, with which they united in 1867.

MATTHEW S., son of John and Mary Campbell, was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, December 27, 1848. The family are of Scotch-Irish decent, the early ancestors having fled to Ireland during the covenanters' rebellion. In 1863 Mr. Campbell came to Illinois, and located in Warren county, near the Mercer and Warren county line. A few years after he removed to Suez township and located on section 26. He was married in 1866 to Miss Annie Watt, a native of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania. The names of their children are as follows: Willie R. (deceased), Clyde R., and Clarence W.

WILLIAM F., son of Arthur and Hannah (Postlewaite) Graham, was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, March 13, 1833. In 1839 the family came to Warren county, and located near Little York. Mr. Graham's early days were spent in the wilderness, and roaming through the trackless forest constituted the amusements of his boyhood. He was married in 1858 to Miss Margaret Hutchison, also a native of Pennsylvania. The names of their children are as follows: Mildred L., Mary H., Arthur H., Daniel H., Maggie E., and Mattie E.

JAMES R., son of Henry and Jane (Latta) McLaughlin, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1825. His family are of Scotch and



Irish origin, and came to this country at a very early date; his grandfather, John Latta, served as major in the revolutionary war. He was married in January, 1850, to Miss Jane Lossell, a native of Trumbull county, Ohio; she died May 15, 1862. In 1864 he married Miss Louisa Sedwick, a sister of Captain Sedwick, of Suez township. The names of his children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Oscar, Eliza J., Ella, Amanda, Charlie, Maggie, Alice, Lewis, Dora, and Roy. The five latter are by the second wife. In 1854 Mr. McLaughlin came to Illinois and bought land in section 2, in Suez township. He now owns about a section of land in Mercer county, and 160 acres in Iowa, situated about twenty miles north of the city of Davenport. Mrs. McLaughlin is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. McLaughlin started out in life without anything to aid him, but by perseverance and an untiring energy, he has made his life a success. He has many friends and is highly respected wherever known.

WILLIAM H., son of James A., and Anna Simpson, was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, July 12, 1835. He was reared a farmer, and followed that pursuit until April 19, 1861, ten days after Fort Sumter was fired on, when he responded to the call of the government and enlisted in Co. H. 15th Pa. Inf., acting as second lieutenant. At the expiration of three months, the time for which the regiment was enlisted, he returned home and remained until August, 1862, when he raised a company, which was attached to the 125th Pa., and designated as Company F. In the battle of Antietam he was struck by a fragment of a shell which made a severe flesh wound in the side of his face. He was discharged in June, 1862, and returned home. He was married in December, 1864, to Miss Elizabeth Smith also a native of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania. The names of the children in the order of their ages are as follows: Carrie, Charles E., Archie E., Mary E., Earl and Pearl, who are twins. In the spring of 1865 he emigrated to Mercer county and located on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of sec. 28, Suez township. Mr. Simpson and his family are kind and hospitable. Their home is a happy one, and we hope the future through whose misty veil none can see may smile as brightly upon him and his loved ones as the past has done.

JOHN A., son of William and Martha Marrow, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, December 8, 1828. He was reared a farmer. When twenty-three years old he left his native county and went to Eldorado county, California, where he remained about five years, during which time he was engaged in mining and various occupations. In the spring of 1856 he returned to Ohio, and in the spring of the following year came to Mercer county, Illinois, and located on section 32 in Greene

township. In January, 1862, he enlisted in Co. G. 30th Ill. Inf., and was with that regiment at Fort Donelson, Siege of Corinth, Britain's Lane, Raymond, Champion Hill, Siege of Vicksburg, and Kennesaw Mountain. He was taken prisoner at Peach Tree Creek, and was in the hands of the enemy about two months, when he was exchanged. He was discharged January 22, 1865. In 1869 he opened a coal mine on his farm in Greene township. The producing capacity of which is forty thousand bushels a year. In 1870 he removed to his farm in section 5, in Suez township. Mr. Marrow was married in 1865 to Miss Mary Ogden, a native of Fountain county, Indiana. The names of his children in the order of their ages are as follows: Samuel O., John W., Mary J. (deceased), and Estella. He and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church.

HENRY BRIDGER. A portion of the early ancestors of the Bridger family were driven from France during the religious persecution. The other branch of the family came from Normandy with William the Conqueror, and cast their lot in England. One of the descendants of this family was Henry Bridger (deceased), who was born in Sussex county, England, near the town of Hastings, October 25, 1798. In October, 1820, he came to America and located in Albany; after remaining a year he went to Troy. He was married in that city to Elizabeth Terrey, October 7, 1822. Miss Terrey was a native of Suffolk county, Long Island. In the spring of 1836 Mr. Bridger emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois. In November of that year he entered a claim on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, Greene township. In June, 1841, he removed to Suez township and bought land in section 2, where two of his sons now reside. The names of his children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: William H., Mary E., Julia M., Barbara A. (deceased), Henry T., Frances A. (wife of Hon. D. W. Sedwick, of Suez), James C., Philip T. (now residing in Chariton county, Missouri), and Annie E. (wife of James Page, of Suez). The death of the father occurred December 17, 1873, and he was buried in the family burying ground, situated on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 2.

GEORGE M. EVANS, son of George D. and Mary (McCague) Evans, was born in Ripley, Ohio, March 9, 1830. Left an orphan at an early age, he was reared by relatives in Adams county. At the age of seventeen he began attending school at South Salem, where he remained about two and a half years. Between the ages of seventeen and twenty he taught school about six months. He was married June 22, 1853, to Miss Ruhama McIntire, a native of Adams county. Shortly after his marriage he embarked in the mercantile business in Ripley, which he continued until the spring of 1855, when he came to Mercer



county, Illinois. In the fall of that year he engaged in business at Norwood; since that time he opened a store in Aledo. In 1880 he removed to his farm northwest of Norwood, his business being conducted by his partner. His first wife died December 1, 1854. He was again married February 19, 1863, to Miss Barbara J. Allison, a native of Pennsylvania, who died December 23, 1873. His third marriage occurred June 6, 1876, Miss Mary W. Carson, a native of Ireland, being the next connubial partner. Mr. Evans has two children living, both of whom were born to him by his second wife. Their names, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Mary E., aged eighteen, and Robert A., aged sixteen years. He is a prominent member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1853 at Ripley, Ohio. Mr. Evans is a man of kindly manner, and the stranger being thrown upon his hospitality is treated with great courtesy.

JOHN LAFFERTY, whose portrait appears in this book, son of John and Ann Lafferty, was born July 28, 1816, in Trumbull county, Ohio. In the spring of 1840, he, in company with his brother, William, emigrated to Illinois and bought land in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 21, Suez township. Mr. Lafferty was married June, 1843, to Miss Grizell Stewart, a native of Indiana. The fruits of the union are eight children, whose names are as follows: James H., Harriet A., Nancy A., William A., John S., Susan E., and Mary E. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1850. Mr. Lafferty is spoken of by his neighbors as an excellent citizen, and possesses the love and esteem of all. A spirit of liberality has ever characterized his actions, and to all charitable, educational, and religious purposes he has given with a willing hand.

JOHN MAUK, son of Peter and Catharine Mauk, was born in 1814, in the picturesque valley of the Shenandoah, Virginia. His father, Peter Mauk, was born January 4, 1775. His family are of German origin. For many years Mr. Mauk was employed as an engineer on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. In 1836 he emigrated to Warren county, Illinois. In 1840 he was united in marriage to Miss Amerett Tinkham, a native of Windom county, Vermont. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Martha A., Benjamin (deceased in his fourteenth year), Mary E., Anna L., Alice, Peter, George B. In 1838 he came to Mercer county, and settled in Suez township. In 1841 he removed to Davenport, Iowa, and was employed as an engineer on the ferry boat plying between the cities of Davenport and Rock Island. In 1841 he returned to his farm in Suez township. He was for several years engaged in the dry goods business

at Bridger's Corners. Mr. Mauk died at his residence June 19, 1879, and his departure was mourned by many friends, some of whom had often received favors at the hands of the deceased.

WILLIAM P. MORGAN, son of Sankey and Ann (Brown) Morgan, was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, March 18, 1839. He received his early education in a log school-house in Pennsylvania. In 1858 the family emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, and located on section 19, in Suez township. Mr. Morgan was married in 1868 to Miss Martha J. Atchison, a native of Ohio. The fruits of this union are seven children, six sons and one daughter. He enlisted August 9, 1862, in company E, 102d Ill. Inf. He was discharged October 18, 1863, at Laverne, Tennessee. Mr. Morgan is a member of the United Presbyterian church with which he united in 1868. He is also justice of the peace.

RICHARD C. McCLELLAN, son of Richard and Susana McClellan, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, September 25, 1838. Mr. McClellan received his education at what is now known as the Jefferson College, in Washington county. In February, 1865, he enlisted in the 87th Penn. Inf., and was with the regiment until mustered out. He was married October 26, 1866, to Miss Martha McCutcheon, a native of Ohio. The fruits of the union are five children, whose names, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Nathaniel R., Evart S., Clarence R., Minnie G., and Armadilla S. Mr. McClellan is a member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1866.

GUS BRUINGTON, son of Alfred and Adeline Bruington, was born in Suez township, Mercer county, Illinois, September 22, 1846. He was married in 1871 to Miss Annie Lafferty, a daughter of William Lafferty, Sr., one of the earliest settlers of Suez township. Mr. Bruington, although quite young, has surrounded himself by all the luxuries and comforts the country affords, and has before him a bright and prosperous future.

JOSHUA H. BROWN, son of Benjamin and Lucinda Brown, was born in the town of North Henderson, July 6, 1841. His father was one of the pioneer settlers of Mercer county. Mr. Brown received his education in the public school of North Henderson. July 22, 1862, he entered the service of his country in Co. H, 84th Ill. Inf., and remained in that regiment until June 16, 1865. On January 1, 1867, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary (Dilley) Rodgers, a native of Mercer county, and daughter of William Dilley, of Ohio Grove township. The names of his children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Vinnie R., Cyrus D., Gus B., and Lucinda M. (deceased in



infancy). In August, 1878, Mr. Brown was nominated for sheriff at the republican convention, at Aledo. In the following November he was elected, receiving as many votes as both his greenback and democratic opponents. Mr. Brown is a member of the Universalist church, of Suez.

HENRY T. BRIDGER, son of Henry and Elizabeth Bridger, was born April 28, 1832, in Rensselaer county, New York. In 1836, the family moved to Mercer county. In the fall of 1862, Mr. Bridger enlisted in Co. E, 102d Ill. Inf. He remained in the service of his country about one year, being discharged on account of disabilities. In December, 1867, he was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Miss Sarah J. McLaughlin, a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania. The fruits of this union are three children: Amy M., William J., and Edna E. The family are attendants at the Methodist Episcopal church.

THOMAS G. BROWN, son of Harison and Martha Brown, was born in North Henderson township, Mercer county, March 25, 1836. Mr. Brown received his early education in a log school-house that stood on section 6, North Henderson township. In December, 1862, he enlisted in Co. E, 102d Ill. Inf., and was with that regiment in every engagement until mustered out of service. He was discharged June 7, 1865, at Chicago. In February, 1869, he was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Coleman, a native of Ohio. The fruits of this union are two children, Nellie and Peter F. It will be seen that Mr. Brown was one of the first white children born in the county. His father, Harison, spoken of elsewhere in the work, is one of the few surviving pioneers of Mercer.

WILLIAM L., son of James and Jane Stewart, was born in Union county, Indiana, in 1827. In 1835 the family emigrated to Illinois, and his father bought the claim owned by George Blake, in section 21. In 1858 he was married to Miss Harriet Dryden, a native of Ohio, who died in 1859. March 7, 1861, he was married to Miss Elizabeth M. Caldwell, a native of Shelby county, Ohio. The names of his children in the order of their ages are: Nancy J., Mattie E., Mira L., William J., Mary J., Ettie F., and Earl O. In August, 1862, Mr. Stewart enlisted in Co. E, 102d Ill. Vol. Inf., and remained with that regiment until the close of the war. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1858. In politics he is a republican. His father, James Stewart, now residing in Alexis, was one of the earliest settlers in Suez township, and assisted in preparing some notes for the historical association.

THOMAS J. GREENWOOD, son of John and Catharine (Filony) Greenwood, was born in Suez township, Mercer county, September 23, 1849.



THOMAS LIKELY





In 1866 he left the quiet life of the farm and went to Galesburg and attended school at the Lombard university. He remained here one year. In 1881 he was elected justice of the peace for a term of four years. In 1878 he was elected assessor for one term, and in this office, as in all others which he has filled, he gave excellent satisfaction. September 22, 1881, he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Goddard, a native of Warren county, Illinois. Mr. Greenwood owns a fine farm of 120 acres, on sections 10 and 15, and we predict for him a bright and prosperous future. He is a prominent republican, and takes an active part in political affairs. Mr. Greenwood is a member of I.O.O.F. lodge, 526, at Alexis, with which he united in August, 1880. He has many friends throughout the country, and is highly respected by all.

JOHN DINGWELL was born in county Donegal, Ireland, in March, 1814. At an early age he came to America, and followed the star of empire westward to Illinois, locating in North Henderson township, Mercer county. In 1840 he bought a farm near Norwood, in Suez township. In 1849 he went to Galesburg and began a course of study in the academy at that place. At the end of two years he returned to Mercer county, and in 1852 was married to Mrs. Mercy Crabtree, a native of England. In the same year he bought land in section 3, in Suez township. The names of his children are: Jennie E., (deceased in her twenty-fourth year), William G. (now residing in Suez township), and John (deceased in infancy). Mr. Dingwell died Nov. 4, 1873. The funeral services were performed in the United Presbyterian church, at Viola. In his early life Mr. Dingwell had been a Covenanter, but later united with the United Presbyterian denomination.

HENRY W., son of David and Elizabeth (Snyder) Mauk, was born in Harrison county, Indiana, June 14, 1830. When twenty-four years of age he came to Mercer county, and in 1856 purchased land in section 11, in Suez township. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Co. E. 102d Ill. Inf., and was with that gallant regiment until June, 1865. He was married January 4, 1871, to Miss Annie Smith, a native of Warren county, Illinois. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are: David R. (deceased), Freddie G. (deceased), Ora B., and Alta M., who are twins.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, son of Matthew and Hannah Campbell, was born November 26, 1822, in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania. In 1848 he came to Mercer county, Illinois, and in 1850 he bought land in section 30, in Suez township. His father's family are of Scotch and Irish descent, and his mother was born in the land of freedom. In 1844 he was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Morgan, a native of



Pennsylvania, who died in 1874. In 1875 he was married to Mrs. Amanda M. Cantrall. The names of his children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Hannah R., Matthew F., Ann E., Franklin P., Helen C., Robert I., Martha J., Mary N., Lydia M., Sarah L. (deceased), and Eugene R.; the last-named is by the second wife. Mr. Campbell is a member of the Baptist church, and his wife is a member of the old school Presbyterian church. He has a farm of 120 acres of excellent land in Suez township.

GEORGE, son of George and Mary Bruington, was born in Breckenridge county, Kentucky, in 1821. In 1852 he emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, and bought land in section 24, Suez township. Mr. Bruington was married in 1842 to Miss Dowel, also a native of Kentucky. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Benjamin, James, and Amanda. He is a member of no church, but tries to do his duty toward God and his fellow men.

JAMES H. BROWNLEE, son of William and Catharine (Hutchison) Brownlee, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, May 1, 1828. His family are of Scotch origin. He received his education in the public schools of his native county. In 1853 the family came to Illinois, and locating in Mercer county, purchased land in section 31, in Suez township. His father now resides in Labette county, Kansas. Mr. Brownlee was married September 20, 1855, to Miss Martha J. Barclay, a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania. Their children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Etha L., Blanch M. (deceased), Elmer F., Ulysses G., Albin B., Ennis R., Nora K., and Roy. In the winter of 1855 he bought land on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, and he is now the possessor of a one-half section of fine land. Mrs. Brownlee is a member of the United Presbyterian church, having united early in life. The family are highly respected by all, and many and true are their friends.

MARTIN PEASE, son of Pelatiah and Nancy Pease, was born in 1824, in Waldo county, Maine. In 1837 the family emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, and located on section 20, in Suez township, the nearest postoffice being Spring Grove. He saw the men building the first school-house in the township, which was of logs, and stood on section 21. In 1847 he was married to Miss Martha A. Pollok, daughter of Robert Pollok, one of Mercer county's pioneers. The fruits of this marriage are seven children: Alonzo U., Nelson S. (deceased), Edwin (deceased), Charles R. (deceased), Mary I., Martin A., and May. Mr. and Mrs. Pease are both members of the United Presbyterian church, with which they united in 1850. In 1850 he bought land in section 20, and now owns a fine farm of 150 acres. On

October 24, 1880, his house took fire from a defective flue, and burned to the ground. Loss \$200, and no insurance. In 1881 Mr. Pease erected a handsome residence on the same foundation. He has many friends and is respected wherever he is known.

JOSEPH PEASE, son of Pelatiah and Nancy Pease, was born in Knox county, Maine, February, 5, 1822. The family on his father's side are of English origin. In 1837, the family emigrated to Mercer county, and bought a claim in Suez township. October 14, 1845, he was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Libby, who died March 15, 1852. January 24, 1853, he married Miss Sarah Stewart, who died September 27, 1864. March 15, 1866, he was again married to Miss Christiana Sprowl. The names of his children are: Zorah E. (deceased), Laura G., Nancy F. (deceased), Joseph S., Campbell B., John A., Pelatiah, Ausley, Elizabeth J., Sarah L. (deceased), Mary L., and George W. Mr. Pease is a member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he was united in 1876. He is one of Mercer county's pioneers, and did his part toward paving the way for civilization.

JOHN A., son of Joseph and Sarah Pease, was born in Suez township, June 23, 1858. He was married February 14, 1878, to Miss Susan Lafferty, daughter of John Lafferty, of Suez township. He and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church, with which they united in 1879.

A. PEASE, son of Joseph and Sarah Pease, was born in Suez township, Mercer county, May 8, 1859. He was married January 23, 1879, to Miss Maggie A. Wallace, a native of Warren county, Illinois. They have one child, whose name is Guy C. Mr. Pease owns land in section 16, where he, with his pleasant family, resides.

JAMES H. LAFFERTY, son of John and Grizelle Lafferty, was born in Suez township, Mercer county, May 24, 1844. He remained at home until August 8, 1862, when he entered the service of his country, in Co. E, 102d Ill. Inf., and remained with the regiment until June 9, 1865, when he received his discharge. On February 28, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Porter, a native of Pennsylvania. The fruits of this union are: Frank S., Mattie G., John (deceased), and Guy C. In 1874, Mr. Lafferty engaged in the stock business and keeps on hand from fifty to one hundred head of short horn cattle. While at his farm the writer had the pleasure of being shown some very handsome animals, a few of which were recently imported from England. His farm is admirably adapted to the business, and this fact, together with the enterprise of the proprietor, will, doubtless, render his labors highly successful.



JOHN L., son of Henry and Jane McLaughlin, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1817. His father and mother were both of Irish descent. His mother was a niece of Gen. Potter, of Revolutionary fame. In 1856, he emigrated to Illinois, and in 1857, bought land in section 2, Suez township. His father died in September, 1881, aged eighty-six, and was buried in the Norwood cemetery. Mr. McLaughlin was married in 1844 to Miss Martha J. Angelo, also a native of Mercer county. The names of the children born to them are: Sarah J., James H. (deceased), Cassius C., Willis J., Mary M., and Josephine. Both are members of the United Brethren church, at Suez.

GEORGE W. SEDWICK was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, His father's given name was Washington, and his mother's Elizabeth. When thirteen years of age he went to Williamsport, Ohio, and entered a machine shop, for the purpose of learning the trade. After working here two years he went to Mount Jackson and worked two years more under instruction. At the end of that time he went to New Castle, Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1861. In that year he was married to Miss Caroline Peeble, a native of Bavaria. Their children's names are as follows: Willis D., Harry L., and an adopted child, Lillie R. In the spring of 1861, Mr. Sedwick came to Mercer county, Illinois. In 1864 he bought land in section 16, in Suez township. In 1870 he sold his farm and engaged in the mercantile business at Suez, which he continued until 1874, when he closed out his stock and bought a farm in section 9, where he now resides. He and Mrs. Sedwick are both members of the United Brethren church.

The Brownlee family are of Scotch origin. DAVID S., the subject of this sketch, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, January 1, 1820. His father's name was David, and his mother's Betsey. In 1839 his father and family emigrated to Warren county, Illinois, and located near Little York. In 1842 the subject of this sketch came to Mercer county, and for about a year was engaged in breaking prairie and threshing. In 1843 he bought land in section 16, Suez township. In 1873 Mr. Brownlee was elected supervisor of Suez township, in which capacity he served for several terms. He was married in 1845 to Miss Margaret Pollok, daughter of Robert Pollok, one of the earliest settlers in Mercer county. His first wife died November 23, 1872, and he was again married January 11, 1877, to Miss Maria Montgomery. May 27, 1881, his second wife died. The names of his children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Robert B., Addie A., and Ida M. Mr. Brownlee is a member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1848.

DR. JAMES F. McCUTCHAN was born in Adams county, Ohio, in 1833. His early life was spent on the farm. When twenty-two years of age he entered college at Washington, Iowa, and graduated from that institution in May, 1861. Immediately after completing his studies he enlisted in Co. H, 2d reg. Iowa Vol. Inf. During his connection with that regiment he became personally acquainted with Gen. James B. Weaver. In the fall of 1863 he was made captain of Co. D, 9th reg. Iowa Vol. Cav., and acted in that capacity until the close of the war. Previous to his promotion, however, he participated in several engagements with the 2d Iowa, among which was the battle of Fort Donelson, where that regiment won for itself a name that will go down into the pages of history. The doctor was discharged in May, and was married in August, 1865, to Miss M. J. S. Graham, a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Mary Edna and Sarah Edith (twins), were born November 13, 1866; A. Joseanna, born December 14, 1870; Alma O., born June 12, 1876; and Clara G., born April 2, 1881. In the fall of 1865 he entered the office of Dr. Webster at Monmouth, and was under that gentleman's instructions one year. In the fall of 1866 he became a student at Keokuk, Iowa, and received his diploma in the spring of 1868. In that year he located at Norwood, and since that time has practiced in that vicinity. In conversing with the doctor the writer found him to be a gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence, fluent in conversation, and progressive in all things.

JAMES M. LEE, son of John and Eliza Lee, was born in Centre county, Pennsylvania, in May, 1836. In the spring of 1857 he came to Mercer county, Illinois, where he worked at carpentering until the spring of 1861. August 8, 1862, he enlisted in Co. E, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and was with that regiment until the close of the war. He was married November 22, 1866, to Miss Harriet A. Lafferty, daughter of John Lafferty, of Suez township. Their children's names are: John A., Miriam E., Marietta, Lela I., and Ethel A. They are both members of the United Presbyterian church.



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GREENE TOWNSHIP.

## GEOLOGY.

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. J. V. FRAZIER, OF VIOLA.

Greene township is traversed throughout its length from east to west by an irregular, broad and elevated plateau or water-shed, the drainings from which on the north bear a north and westerly direction to the Edwards river, while on the south the water courses bear south and westerly to join Pope creek.

The Edwards river, coming from the east, flows just north of and along the northeastern portion of the township, for two and a half miles, when it enters the township about midway of the north line of section 3, running thence nearly west until it passes beyond our township's line on section 6. Pope creek enters the township at near the the southeast corner and passes in a westerly direction entirely through it on its southern border. The Donohue and Skunk runs, as also two or three unnamed deep-cut water-ways, fed here and there by springs, carry the surface waters from the north half of the township into the Edwards river, while North Pope, Collins, or "Nigger" run, with two or three deep ravines, serve to drain the south half into Pope creek.

These streams and water-courses, while furnishing an abundant supply of water, at the same time shape the surface of the country and determine the quality of the soil. Not more than three-fifths of the township is prairie. Along the immediate valleys of the larger streams there is a deep black soil, rich in humus, and in some places covered by heavy growths of timber, while upon the ridges bordering the water-courses are the so called "barrens." The soil of the prairies is mostly deep and of a blackish or chocolate colored loam, with a yellow or light brown clay subsoil. The soil of the "barrens" is similar to that of the prairies, only lighter colored and less in depth, becoming of a light brown or yellowish color along the sides and over the tops of the ridges, on account of the character of the subsoil which comes near the surface.

The surface deposits of the township comprise the ordinary subdivisions of the quarternary period, alluvium, loess, and drift. The alluvium deposits are mostly confined to narrow belts along the larger streams. Some of this land is so low as to be too much subject to overflow for growing cereals, but affording excellent meadow and grazing grounds.

The loess deposit is found sparingly, capping some of the high points along Pope creek, but not sufficient in quantity to require special notice.

*Drift.*—The deposits of this subdivision consist of a series of brown and blue clays, mixed here and there with sand, gravel and small pebbles, which are spread over the entire surface of the township. Quite a number of boulders of igneous or metamorphic rocks lie scattered along the borders of the streams and in the valleys of most of the temporary water courses.

*Coal Measures.*—The stratified rocks exposed in this township all belong to the coal measures and include the lower groups, from coal No. 3 of the Illinois section down to near the base of this formation. They consist of various strata of limestone, sandstone, clay, shale, and coal, and are supposed to reach a thickness of from 100 to 150 feet. A boring on section 14, near Viola, reaches 130 feet without passing entirely through this formation.

There have been three seams of coal found and more or less worked in the township, although No. 3 and No. 1 have been the most extensively mined. Coal No. 3 has been found only on sections 31 and 32. The mines of Mr. Martin and Mr. Morrow are on this seam, while about twenty-five feet lower down coal No. 2 was formerly worked by Mr. Martin by a drift into the hill. The discovery of the thicker and more profitable vein No. 3 above caused its abandonment several years ago. Coal No. 3 at Martin's bank varies from three to five feet in thickness, is safely and profitably worked, and affords one of our very best fuel coals.

Coal No. 2 of the Illinois group, in all the exposures thus far made in the township, has shown too thin a vein for profitable mining at present, varying from one and a half to two feet in thickness. This seam has been found at several points, notably on the Gilmore farm, S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 23, on the Morey farm, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 27, and at Martin's bank in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31. Besides the mining formerly done on this vein on Martin's bank, the openings on the Gilmore farm and on B. F. Morey's old farm afforded a fair quantity of fuel coal, but were never operated except for the use of the owners' families and some of their neighbors. At the two last named farms the coal was mined by stripping the soil, clay and slate overlying it, but the increasing depth of the overlying clay and shale as they neared the higher ground rendered its mining unprofitable by this process, and the promise of a poor "roof" over the coal discouraged the owners from running a drift into the hills.



From the shales overlying coals No. 3 and No. 2 our amateur geologists have gathered many of the fossils peculiar to the coal measures of this part of the state. Besides several species of bryozora, these sections furnish conularia, haniproartes creuistro, lima retifero, spirifer lunitus, attryrus subtitito, productus nebrascensis, pleurophorus soleniformius, etc. The greater portion of the coal produced, for which our township is somewhat famous, comes from coal No. 1 of the Illinois section. This seam varies in thickness from three and a half to four and a half feet, the general average reaching about four feet. The deposit of this coal seam stretches across the township from east to west, being a part only of the great Edwards river seam. It has been found and extensively mined on sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 11. The principal shafts now in operation are N. B. Frazier's, on the S. E. of section 2, Russell Park's and H. Boone's on section 3, Wm. Blaine's, W. P. Collins' and Guthrie's shafts on section 4; Bell Brothers' on section 5; Geo. Pinkerton's and Hegg's works on section 6. This vein of coal probably underlies a very considerable portion of the township, particularly along the northern half, but will be found at a considerable depth, if found at all, under the higher water shed of the township, all the openings heretofore made being located in the valleys of the streams, fully 150 feet below the plateau upon which Viola stands. This vein shows, in some localities, a peculiarity worthy of mention. Starting from the east side of the township, where we find but little admixture of slate, there is a gradual development of this material westward until we reach section 4, where it constitutes a parting strip of about four inches, about midway of the seam, and from thence west thickens out so rapidly that on section 6 it forms a parting varying in thickness from eighteen to twenty inches. While this layer of shale between the upper and lower coal does not impair its quality seriously, still it renders mining tedious and expensive on account of the necessity of taking care of so much refuse matter.

*Potters' Clay.*—A test of some of the whitish or pale blue clay found above coal No. 1, proves it to possess excellent qualities for the manufacture of stoneware. Several barrels of it were shipped, a few years ago, to a firm in Iowa who pronounced it, after a thorough trial, worthy of the attempt to erect a factory near by it. Some negotiations were entered into with the manufacturer alluded to and parties here, but the enterprise was finally abandoned.

A superior deposit of clay, suitable for the manufacture of sewer tile and fire-brick has been developed within the past few years. This deposit is just below coal No. 2, and the heaviest body of it is found

on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35. The Monmouth Manufacturing Company, of Monmouth Illinois, purchased forty acres of this land and have shipped, for several years past, as high as 150 tons per year of their clay, the greater portion of which they use in making fire-brick and in heavy sewer tile. They claim it to be the best clay in the west for their purposes.

*Lime.*—Some of the blue limestone found above coal No. 1 has been burned for and yielded a fair quality of lime, but on account of impurities needs to be sorted and screened before using, and the amount so obtained is comparatively small, rendering its manufacture scarcely profitable.

*Building Stone.*—The sandstone lying just above Coal No. 2, Illinois section, is of a light color, varying from a dull white to yellow, and soft when first quarried, but hardens on exposure. There are several quarries of this rock in the township, some of which are yielding a fine quality of building stone. In some of the quarries it can be taken out in blocks of almost any desired size. This stone is found on section 33, near F. McGaughey's house; on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 26; on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34; and inferior qualities at other places. The best and most extensive quarry is that of H. Gilbert on section 34, from which has been taken a large portion of all the sandstone for cutting and use in heavy masonry about Viola and the surrounding country.

The limestone which overlies Coal No. 1, of the Illinois section, is a drab-colored, impure limestone, varying from eight to fifteen feet in depth, with about two feet of a very solid blue limestone just below. In some localities we find a flinty limestone interposed between the blue and gray. The blue limestone is of small value for building material, as it soon falls to pieces on exposure to the atmosphere. This drab-colored rock is extensively quarried on sections 3, 4, and 5, and is held in high esteem for building purposes, many hundreds of tons having been hauled out into other portions of the county for economic uses. The rock is found mostly in layers from two to eight inches in thickness, the layers growing thicker gradually from above downward. Some of the lower layers can be broken into almost any desired sizes, up to ten or twelve feet square. The large slabs that form the floors and roofs of the cells in the county jail were quarried on section 4, as also the large slabs lining and covering the vaults of the Aledo bank.

From the shale above the coals of Greene township and the overlying limestones are gathered nearly every species of our Mercer county coal measures fossils; in fact, the fossils found in this township



are the typical fossils of the coal measures in the county. It would be tedious and uninteresting for many of your readers were we to name a tenth part of these interesting relics of a by-gone period of our earth's growth, which have only in recent years possessed anything of interest or significance to human understandings; but we will say, in general terms, that in addition to those already noted above, we find some species of the nautilus, the goniatite, the straparolus, murchisonia, pleurotomaria, bellerophon, productus, and several varieties of crenoidia, more or less broken and fragmentary.

Of fossil ferns, some of them very well preserved, we have several species, while fragments of the rhododenden and sigillaria, with the roots of the latter (stigmaria), are common trophies of our amateur collectors.

That many of the monster mammals of the quarternary period once had a home in our neighborhood and roamed over the then marshy and fern-clad plains, which now constitute the high rolling prairie and grass-covered valleys of Greene township, there can be but small doubt. Their bones, which were buried here in that distant age, are now and then recovered from their unmarked burial grounds, and stand as witnesses of their former occupancy of the soil. In my cabinet are a part of a tooth of the mastodon, and a large and well-preserved tooth of the elephas primogeneus (?) found on section 3 in this township. The locality where found bore evidence of having been in former times a marsh or swamp, and the evidences from the place and its surroundings are strongly suggestive that the monsters whose teeth now grace my cabinet died where the teeth were found.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first actual settler in what is now known as T. 14, R. 2, west of the 4th P.M., was David Williams, who came in 1836 and entered a claim on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 14. In the following year came Nathan McChesney, who located in the eastern part of the township, and Thomas Weir, who located in section 9. In the spring of 1839 John Collins, formerly a resident of Columbiana county, Ohio, came from the eastern part of the county, where he had located in 1837 near the present site of Joy. Mr. Collins located on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15. He erected a log cabin about twenty rods east and on the opposite side of the road from the present residence of his son, William P. The last vestige of this rude habitation has disappeared, and immediately over the spot daily passes the "iron steed, swifter than eagles fly."

In the same year came John Cowden, who located on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$

of Sec. 17; William Brownlee, who located on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 17; John Linn, who located on S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 14; and Elijah Stewart, who bought the claim of David Williams. John Carnahan, Sr., formerly of Mercer county, Pennsylvania, came and located on section 18. His sons, William and David, and his son-in-law, Frank Anderson, took claims in the same section.

William Pinkerton, Sr., came in 1840, and also settled on section 18. John Walker also came at a very early day. The Park family came in 1839. George McFerren, Matthew Doak, and Henry Griffin were also among the early settlers of the township. Charles Durston was the first white child born in the township.

Although the strong armed pioneer experienced many hardships, privations and difficulties, his life was not destitute of sunshine. His rude log cabin, with its inmates, was as dear to him as though it had been a palace. After a hard day's work in the "clearing," he would retire to rest with his loved ones about him, and was rewarded for his toil by a night of sound sleep

"Unbroken by the wolf's long howl,  
Or the panther springing by."

Being neighbors and companions in a wilderness cut off from civilization, a genial spirit of friendship generally existed among the settlers, and a neighbor was as welcome to share the rude comforts of the pioneer's cabin as a brother. Nor did the settlers lack for amusement. "Corn huskings," "spelling schools," "taffy pullings," and "shooting matches," were frequent, young and old participating, and on the "punchon floor" the young men and blushing maidens tripped the "light fantastic toe" as merrily, if not as gracefully, as the more accomplished dancers of the present day. While the traditional "back woods' fiddler" patted the floor with his number ten "cow-hides," and made the log cabin ring with such melodies as the "fisher's horn-pipe," and the "devil's dream."

If a "new-comer" desired to build a house, he had the services of all the settlers in the surrounding neighborhood at his disposal. Carpentering was then in its simplicity, a broad-ax, an auger, and a cross-cut saw constituted a set of carpenter's tools, and out of a pile of logs of various sizes a cabin was soon constructed, the cracks "chunk and dobbed," with a kind of mortar made of clay and prairie grass. A chimney and fire-place made of the same material, and the house was ready for its occupants.

One of the worst enemies the settlers had to contend with was the prairie fire. Hunters would frequently set fire to the tall grass, which,



in the fall, would readily ignite; the prairie would soon be a sea of flame, and woe unto the unlucky farmer who had not taken the proper precautions to protect his property. These fires were sometimes arrested in their flight by the settlers, who would turn out and "fight them." Mr. W. P. Collins states that he, in company with his father, brother, and several neighbors once fought a fire from Saturday until Sunday night, without food, water or sleep. The manner in which this was done was to plow a furrow in front of the fire, and then burn the grass between, being careful in the beginning to prevent the grass on the opposite side from igniting.

The people also experienced great difficulty in getting breadstuff. Mills being scarce, they were frequently, in case of bad weather, compelled to manufacture their own meal, which was done by grating the corn while on the ear. Corn bread and pork constituted the bill of fare.

William Terry was also one of the earliest settlers in Greene township, having come in 1836, from New York state. He entered in all about 440 acres of land, 160 of which was entered in his son's name. Mr. Terry is now nearly eighty-four, and is apparently as rugged as when the writer first saw him a score of years ago. His mind is as clear and his memory as retentive as in his boyhood. He is familiarly spoken of as "Uncle Billy." During an interview with this venerable gentleman, the writer listened to many amusing incidents illustrative of pioneer life. When Mr. Terry came to Mercer county, there was but one other settler in Greene township. Game of all kinds abounded. He states that he has seen as many as fifty deer in a drove, browsing on Pope creek bottom. Lynx and wolves were also very plentiful. One evening, while driving his cows down to the creek bottom, he heard a rustling in the bushes near at hand, and on walking up nearer to ascertain the cause, a huge black wolf sprang at him, with glaring eyes and open jaws. Uncle Billy sprang across a little stream that ran near by, and started homeward at a rate which he thinks was the fastest on record at that time. He arrived safely at home, minus his hat. On the following morning he went back to the scene of the fright and found from its tracks, that the wolf had pursued him as far as the water and stopped. He was returning home one evening from Bridger's corners, where he had been transacting some business which had not gone to suit him. This rendered his feelings very unamiable, and as he was passing through Pope creek timber, his mind was very suddenly diverted from his financial affairs by the appearance of a large gray wolf, immediately in front of him and right in his path. He stopped for a moment, and the wolf raised himself on his haunches,

and sat glaring at him in a very threatening manner. But Uncle Billy's combativeness would not allow him to flee, nor to turn from the path. He seized a club, started toward the animal, and it politely stepped aside, allowing him to pass, but he states that he kept one eye on his wolfship until he disappeared in the distance. Mr. Terry states that the settlers in that part of the county did their trading at Hendersonville, Knox county, where they paid as high as twenty dollars per barrel for flour, and other commodities in proportion. His family once subsisted for several weeks on bread made from wheat ground in a coffee mill. The first religious services Mr. Terry attended in Illinois were held in the cabin of Mr. James Mann, in North Henderson township. People then drove to church with ox teams.

Hopkins Boone, now a resident of Viola, was the second settler in Preemption township, having located on Edwards river in the fall of 1835. Mr. Boone first made a trip to Illinois in 1830 and had decided to make his home in the southern part of the state. But on returning after the close of the Black Hawk war he found that locality too thickly settled to suit his ideas of a new country, and he accordingly came farther north. At that time and for several years subsequent the county was divided into three voting precincts, his being called the Richland Grove precinct. The polling place was then at the residence of a Mr. Parker in what is now Richland Grove township. On election day in 1836 Mr. Boone, in company with a neighbor, walked to Mr. Parker's to cast their votes. On their arrival they found fifteen or twenty settlers from other parts of the precinct who had congregated there for the same purpose. They had no printed tickets, and as not a soul of them knew the names of the electors, it was impossible for them to vote, and after laughing and joking considerably over their predicament they returned to their respective homes.

Mr. Boone states that at that time there was no road leading north and south except an Indian trail, which could be traveled only on horseback, and which lay between Monmouth and Rock Island. He states that there had been a state road laid out from Beardstown to Rock Island, but as there had been no work done on it through Mercer county it could not be traveled by wagon.

Until after they had raised a crop the settlers were obliged to get their provisions from Knox and Warren counties. In order to reach Monmouth by wagon they were obliged to go west to the Mississippi and there take a road running from New Boston to that place, which made a roundabout journey.

For several years after locating at Farlow's Grove their nearest mill was one situated on the Cedar fork of Henderson creek in Warren



county. As there was but little wheat raised the settlers were obliged to subsist principally on corn bread, and occasionally on "hog and hominy." As game was plentiful a piece of venison or a wild turkey frequently broke the monotony. Mr. Boone states that a drove of wild hogs was seen along the river in 1836 and some of them were shot by the settlers.

Mr. Boone erected the first saw-mill built on Edwards river and did work for settlers for many miles around.

He is one of the four remaining pioneers of Mercer county. He is a distant relative of the famous Daniel Boone, and like him, in his younger days, excessively fond of life in a wild country. He says the happiest days of his life were spent in a log cabin. In early times he could stand in the door of his rude habitation and look far up and down the river and across the country for miles, seeing nothing but prairie, with here and there a belt of timber; hills adorned with flowers of every hue, between which glided the silvery waters of the river, and here and there herds of deer feeding on the plain.

But what a change time has wrought. Civilization in its onward march has blotted out all traces of the cabin, and where the bounding deer dwelt and the wild flowers bloomed, are school-houses, dwellings and fields of grain.

The canoe of the swarthy savage is seen no more darting up and down the stream, while in the distance can be heard the shriek of the locomotive and the clanging of the church bells.

He like many others has stepped out of the busy whirlpool of life, and is living in quiet retirement. He has the satisfaction of knowing that he assisted in paving the way for civilization and for progress, and in his later years his memory loves to dwell on the past, which for him has been marked by many hardships and dangers, yet has not been without its pleasures.

#### ORGANIZATION.

Greene township assumed organization in 1854. The name of Greene was suggested by John Collins, with whom General Greene of revolutionary fame was a great favorite. The first town meeting was held in a school-house that stood on a hill in what is now the eastern part of the village of Viola. John Collins was chosen chairman by acclamation, after which Uri Smith was chosen moderator, and Henry Hoagland, clerk pro tem. The polls being opened the following officers were chosen by ballott: Elisha Miles, supervisor; Henry Hoagland, town clerk; William P. Collins, assessor; Alexander McGauhey, collector; John Frazier, overseer of the poor; Samual E. Russell, John

H. Park and David Somerville, Jr., commissioners of highways; John Griffin and Henry Hoagland, justices of the peace; William T. McGauhey and W. P. Collins, constables; Jeremiah Boyer, and David Somerville, Jr., pound masters; Alexander M. Stewart, Van R. Harriott, and C. Doty, overseers of highways.

#### VIOLA.

The village of Viola was laid out by Ford, Shepard and Perkins in 1856. As that time the old Air Line railroad was being surveyed through the country, and Viola was one of the points selected for a station. The name was conferred upon the infant village by Judge Perkins, and is said to have been suggested to him by one of his daughters. In 1856-7 the judge erected the large brick hotel, supposing that a prosperous town would soon surround it. But owing to the collapse of the railroad scheme the great building stood almost alone in its glory for several years after, and proved to have been a very unprofitable investment to the builder.

The first business house erected after the laying out of the village was that of Dyer Ford, father of M. M. Ford, one of the proprietors of the town. Soon after, the Crosby brothers erected a building and opened up a stock of general merchandise. The first drug store was opened by Mr. Balkam. The postoffice was established in the village in 1856 at the residence of Samuel Perry, Mr. Perry officiating as postmaster for a short time, resigned, and was succeeded by Dyer Ford. The names of the successive postmasters down to the present time in the order of their appointment are as follows: B. F. Warner, resigned, E. S. Fugate, resigned, N. H. Pond, resigned, E. T. Crosby, resigned, E. L. McKinnie, removed, and V. R. Harriott. The latter named gentleman was appointed in 1880, and has discharged his duties faithfully and satisfactorily.

For a period of nearly twelve years after the laying out of the village, but little growth or progress was made, but after the completion of the branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad in 1869, it began to show some signs of life, and entered upon an era of prosperity and growth which surprised the most sanguine. In 1869 Park & McKinnie erected a handsome drug store. In 1870 Crosby & Phares erected a building in the same block. In 1871 H. B. Frazier built a handsome two-story store building 22×60 feet, and has since added twenty feet in length. In the winter of 1869-70 John G. Gilbert erected a store building and masonic hall on the corner of Shepard and Eighth streets. Since that time he has added two other handsome store-rooms, making the entire building 64×64 feet. The



first stock of hardware was put in by V. R. Harriott, in the old hotel building. In 1869 an elevator was built by Mack, Reynolds & Co., of Galesburg, which was operated by the Manning brothers. In 1880 E. J. Morgan also erected a large grain elevator west of the former one, which is now owned by Pinkerton Brothers. The capacity of this building is 20,000 bushels.

During the winter of 1880-81, 400,000 bushels of corn were shipped from Viola, which we presume was not exceeded at any point in the county. The village was incorporated March 19, 1870, Dr. J. V. Frazier, E. J. Morgan, Henry Allen, P. L. McKinnie, and W. K. Garwood being the first trustees. During the twelve years of her incorporated existence Viola has had a licensed saloon within its limits but two years. During that time king alcohol held undisputed sway, and with his polluting breath sent misery and wretchedness, want and despair into many households. With his subtle power he tore the dimpled arms of the laughing child from about its father's neck, and changed him from a loving father to a demon. Thanks to the unceasing labors of the temperance people, he was checked in his devilish career. They declared, through the ballot, that the saloonkeeper must go, and he has gone, let us hope, forever.

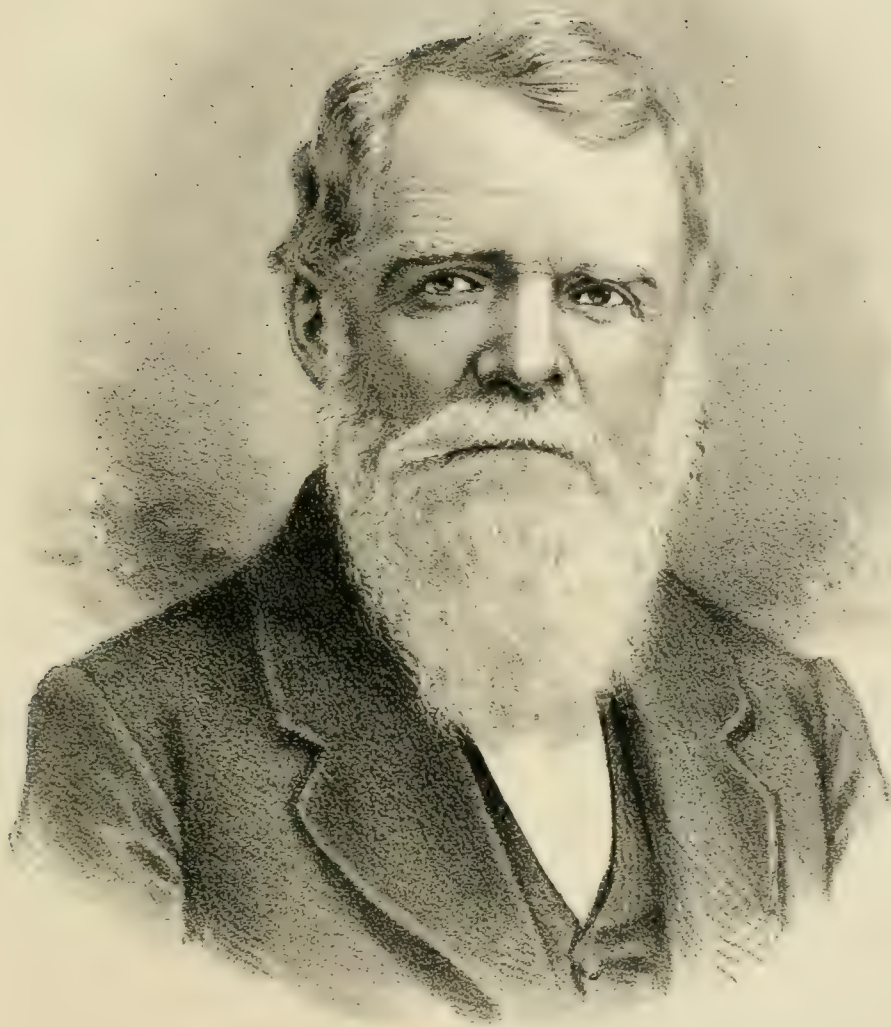
#### NIGGER RIDGE.

For several years previous to and during the war, the people in the western part of the township are said to have been large stockholders in the underground railway. A depot or station was established in the neighborhood, and many a dusky slave, fleeing from the cruelty of the master's lash, was by those kind-hearted people assisted on his way toward the star in the north, and owing to such humane acts, together with the fact that the people in the vicinity were almost unanimous in the most radical abolition principles, the neighborhood won the name of Nigger Ridge. Rather an uncouth nickname it is, yet one of which they may justly be proud. With it are mingled the recollections of the child being torn from the arms of its dark-skinned mother and sold at the auction block, of the cruel lash, of the savage bloodhound, of the four long years of war that struck the shackles from the arms of millions of slaves.

#### FIRES.

In June, 1865, the residence of Dr. J. V. Frazier took fire from a defective flue, and was burned to the ground; loss, \$1,500.

In 1866 the drug store of E. S. Fugate took fire, burning the northwest corner of the building, and destroying his books and papers;



JOHN LAFFERTY





loss, about \$800. Owing to the timely assistance of the citizens, the building was saved from entire destruction.

In 1878 the residence of B. N. Peck took fire, and, with almost its entire contents, totally destroyed. The dwelling was insured, and Mr. Peck received the entire amount.

#### EPISODES.

In February, 1881, the postoffice was entered, and stamps and registered letters, amounting to \$100, taken. The perpetrator was never captured.

July 3, 1875, a large crowd assembled at Viola for the purpose of celebrating the Fourth, that day coming on Sunday. During the afternoon a crowd of miners got into a melee with the police, and a general row ensued, in which some bravery and a great deal of cowardice was manifested. Titus Snyder, Samuel Park, and one or two others having been authorized to act as policemen, contended for a time with a howling mob of infuriated drunkards, and, although severely handled, they succeeded in leveling half a dozen of the ruffians to the earth, after which quiet was restored.

In the fall of 1876 George Parrot, a traveling salesman stopping at the village hotel, committed suicide by taking morphine.

On the night of November 17, 1878, a burglar named Lothringer tried to effect an entrance into the dry goods store of H. B. Frazier & Co. George Goding, a brother of one of the firm, was sleeping in the store at the time, and was suddenly awakened by the cracking of glass in the rear end of the building. He seized his revolver and crept quietly back until he felt the cold air coming through the hole that had been made in the glass in the panel door. The head and shoulders of the burglar soon appeared, and he was in the act of crawling in, when Goding fired, the ball taking effect in his breast. He turned and ran across the street, where he fell and was captured. He was afterward sent to the state prison.

#### ORGANIZATIONS.

*The United Presbyterian Church*—Was organized in 1855 by the Rev. Matthew Bigger, and was at that time known as the Twin Grove congregation. The names of the first trustees elected are as follows: John Mitchell, chairman; W. P. Collins, secretary; trustees, S. E. Russell, J. B. Mitchell, and W. P. Collins. The membership then numbered twenty-eight, and was organized under the care of the Associate Reform Presbytery at Monmouth. John Collins, John Mitchell, Sr., and Samuel Ross were members of the session. The



first regular pastor was the Rev. D. C. Cochran, who was installed in the spring of 1857. There has been since the organization of the society about 325 members united with them. The present membership is 110. The largest number of members attending services at any one time was 130. The present pastor is the Rev. W. S. McClanahan. The present session is composed of the following-named members: Richard Gardner, J. C. Pinkerton, Leonard Hogg, Richard Aitkin, James Stewart, and S. E. Russell. The present trustees are: W. C. Breckenridge, John Ashenhurst and S. E. Russell. The Sabbath school in connection is in a very flourishing condition and numbers about 100 members. This congregation is one of the largest and most prosperous in the county. The church building was erected in 1857; in 1876 additional improvements were made. The entire cost of the building was about \$4,500.

*Methodist Episcopal.*—This society was organized in 1867. The first trustees being Delos Crosby, Jonah Flora, James M. Walker, E. J. Morgan, Elias Beachlor, George Griffin, and O. R. Morey. The church building was completed in 1870. The first pastor was the Rev. Theodore Hoagland. Owing to very imperfect records the data in regard to this organization are very meagre. The society was first organized by the Rev. J. Fleharty, who held meetings in the old brick school-house, and through whose earnest efforts many converts were brought into communion with Christ.

*Congregational Church.*—This society was organized in 1857, by the Rev. C. H. Eaton, who acted as the first regular pastor. The church building was erected the same year. The first trustees were: B. C. Perkins, Joseph Schofield, George Bolton, Thomas Merriman, John A. Hoffman. This organization was in a very flourishing condition until about 1865-6, but having been originally composed of members who had previously belonged to other denominations, it began to decrease in number and soon became practically extinct.

*Presbyterian.*—This society was organized April 22, 1872, in the old Congregational church building, and was made up principally of persons who had formerly been members of the Edwards river congregation, and the old Congregationalist church at Viola. The first pastor was the Rev. E. Robb, licentiate of Auburn, New York, seminary. The first elders were Russell Park and Hopkins Boom. In 1878 the society erected a church building at a cost of about \$2,700. This building is pleasantly located, surrounded by a natural grove, and is an ornament to the village. The interior of the building is handsomely finished, and furnished to correspond. The congregation is in a prosperous condition, and is at present under the supervision of the Rev. R. H. Fulton.

*Bethel Church.*—About four miles west of Viola a society was organized in 1854, and was called the Bethel Free Presbyterian Church. At the time of organization the membership numbered twenty. J. R. Whittim was the first pastor, and the first trustees were James McClure, William M. Carnahan, and John Carnahan. The church was known by the above name until 1866, when slavery had ceased to be an issue and the name was changed to Wesleyan Methodist, and since has gone by that name.

*Lodge No. 577, A. F. and A. M.*, was organized July 16, 1867, with the following officers: Master, J. B. Longley; Senior Warden, B. F. Morey; Junior Warden, S. B. Atwater; Treasurer, Russel Park; Secretary, V. R. Harriott; Senior Deacon, Warren L. Smith; Junior Deacon, Robert Park; Tyler, M. K. Flory. Following are the names of the charter members: Allen Robinson, W. L. Smith, M. K. Flory, Edward Lynes, John Baxter, Levi McLaughlin, Russell Park, B. F. Morey, J. M. Erne, Robert Park, V. R. Harriott, S. B. Atwater, S. R. Moore, W. D. Morford, J. B. Longley, Allen McLaughlin, Richard Cooper. The Lodge was conducted under dispensation until 1868, when they received their charter. The names of the present officers are as follows: Worshipful Master, H. B. Frazier; Senior Warden, P. F. Mauk; Junior Warden, B. C. Bowers; Treasurer, Russell Park; Secretary, V. R. Harriott; Senior Deacon, W. L. Smith; Junior Deacon, J. E. Greenwood; Stewards, Reuben Perry, M. K. Flory; Tyler, J. B. Smith. The present membership of the lodge number forty-three.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first school in the township was taught by Elizabeth Collins, in the rear part of her father's (John Collins), residence, in 1840, which, during its existence, was kept up by subscription. The first public school building in the township was erected in 1842, and stood on a hill in the eastern part of the village of Viola, north of the present site of the steam mill, and was used until 1856, when a two story brick building was erected, about forty rods southwest of it, which was occupied until 1871, when the large increase in attendance made it necessary to erect a new and larger building. Accordingly, the people of the district held a meeting, for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiment in regard to it, and it was decided to proceed at once with the work. Dr. J. V. Frazier drew up and submitted to the meeting a plan for the proposed building, which was adopted, and Delos Crosby employed to superintend the construction of the same. The grounds selected upon which to erect the building are in block 114, where two lots were purchased, at a cost of about \$500. The building, one of the best in the



county, was completed in 1871, and school opened in the fall of that year, Miss Sarah Hayes being the first principal. For reasons which might be mysterious to some and transparent to others, the accounts of the expenditures on the building were very imperfectly kept; in fact they were not kept at all, and the people of the district are to-day ignorant of the cost of their school edifice. An investigating committee was once appointed to look into the matter, but their labors were rewarded by the same success that usually attends such efforts. They were obliged to guess at both the cost of the building, and the disposal that was made of the public funds. We will state that their opinion in regard to the former, but will withhold it in reference to the latter. According to their estimate, the building, including grounds, cost about \$7,000. The building is two stories in height, the main building, 54×32 feet in size, and the wing 17×20. It is divided into four departments, which are designated in alphabetical order, beginning at A. Mr. S. P. Wiley, of Aledo, is the present principal, and is conducting the school to the entire satisfaction of the people of the district.

#### THE CEMETERY.

The cemetery is located about a half a mile north and west of the village. The ground was donated to the United Presbyterian church by John Collins. The first burial that took place here was the remains of John Kennedy. It is now used as a public cemetery and has recently been enlarged.

It is admirably located on gently rolling ground, and is surrounded by a grove of forest trees. In visiting this burial place one is struck by the surrounding beauty, by the hallowed stillness, broken only by the twittering of wild birds, and cannot but realize how well the location was chosen. John Collins, the donor, is buried here.

The cemetery in connection with Bethel church was established in 1856 on land donated by William and Porter Carnahan. It is located in section 18, and is used as a public burial place.

#### THE VIOLA VINEYARD.

Prominent among the places of interest in Mercer county is the vineyard owned by J. M. Erne, contiguous to the village of Viola. In 1875 Mr. Erne purchased twenty-two acres of timber land, joining the village on the north and east, and by ceaseless labor and excellent management he has removed the timber and is now the proprietor of the largest vineyard in the county. He carries on the business in a scientific and skillful manner. The hillsides facing the southeast are ornamented by rows of vines, numbering in all about 6,000, and consisting

of about thirty varieties of grapes. In 1880 these vines produced about fifty tons of fruit.

In addition to these he has about 600 apple trees, among which about twenty varieties of apples are represented. He also has about fifteen different varieties of strawberries, six of raspberries and three of cherries. He is experimenting with German prunes and several other kinds of fruit which have heretofore been unknown in the American vineyards.

Among the novelties to be found in his vineyard is the "Viola Crab," which is indebted to Mr. Erne for its name, and which is destined to figure prominently among the fine fruits of the country. The tree from which the grafts were taken was discovered by Mr. Erne in the timber south of Viola, and seemed to be a cross between the tame apple and wild crab apple. The fruit resembles the Roman stem in shape and color, and Mr. Erne thinks it superior to any fruit of the crab genus in existence. This fruit is supposed to be transcendent. Mr. Erne is carefully cultivating this novelty and thinks his labor will be rewarded by his being known as the discoverer of a fine species of fruit.

He is also experimenting with seedling grapes and the result of his experiments are several new varieties of that delicious fruit, upon which he has not yet conferred names. He has developed an extra fine white, and a fine copper colored fruit, and also a kind that grows in very compact clusters. He has also developed a seedling peach that ripens early in July, called the Early Mercer.

Mr. Erne deserves great credit for his perseverance and untiring diligence in developing this fruit enterprise. He also manufactures large quantities of wine of an excellent quality.

#### GREEN BOWER NURSERY.

This enterprise, managed by James Ferry, is situated about four miles southeast of Viola. For many years Mr. Ferry and his father have devoted a great deal of their attention to fruit growing, and in 1869 James opened his nursery. It is handsomely situated and the trees and shrubs so tastefully arranged as to present a pretty view. The land on which it is located, consisting of about twenty-two acres, is rolling, the hills sloping to the south and east. Mr. Ferry keeps on hand about sixty varieties of apple trees, and a dozen of raspberries; in blackberries he makes a specialty of the "snyder" and "killina;" in grapes of the "concord." Of strawberries he keeps about ten varieties. Aside from these are found all kinds of ornamental trees. The nursery is well protected on all sides by a natural grove of oak



trees. It is also well drained, and with these natural advantages, together with the enterprise and excellent judgment of the proprietor, we see no reason why it should not be a long-lived success.

#### THE STEAM MILL.

Early in the spring of 1869, an elderly gentleman, of suave manner, appeared on the streets of Viola, introducing himself to some of the citizens as William Cannon. His business in the village was to ascertain the feeling of the people in regard to having a steam mill added to their list of enterprises. After finding the sentiment favorable to his project, he very modestly stated that he would need a little pecuniary aid in constructing the building, and proposed that in case the citizens raised him \$2,500, to proceed at once with the work. Enough kind-hearted gentlemen were soon found to make up the desired amount, and as security they were given a lien on the property. At the expiration of two years, the time when the money was to have been refunded, the double-barreled firm of Cannon & Cannon collapsed, and the wily creditors pounced down on the property. After gaining possession of the same they were informed that other parties held claims on the mill amounting to nearly \$5,000. After liquidating these liens the property was sold to L. S. Hunter, the present proprietor, for \$1,800. Just how much these philanthropic gentlemen realized from the speculation, except that they had been swindled, is not known.

#### WAR RECORD.

In sending out troops to aid in the suppression of the rebellion, Greene was not behind her sister townships. She furnished troops for the 8th Kansas, 17th Illinois, 30th Illinois, 45th Illinois, 65th Illinois, 83d Illinois, 84th Illinois, 27th Illinois, 102d Illinois, 124th Illinois, 140th Illinois and 53d Illinois, and 12th Ill. Cavalry. Upon the altar of her country she laid her sacrifice. Some of her brave sons who had gone out full of life and health, had returned, sick and emaciated from the effects of hardships and exposure, to their old homes to die with their loved ones about them, while the graves of others are scattered over the soil of Tennessee, of the Carolinas, of Georgia, on the banks of the Mississippi, and on the shore of the moaning sea. The tales of their deeds of heroism have been "enshrined in song;" a stately shaft of marble has been erected to their memory, and their epitaphs are written on the hearts of the American people.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Among the many prominent men of which Mercer county can boast, none are more deserving of the respect of her citizens than Dr. JESSE V. FRAZIER. Dr. Frazier is a son of John and Nancy (Veach) Frazier, and was born in Hubbard, Trumbull county, Ohio, February 15, 1824. Jesse remained on the farm with his father until eighteen years of age, when he went to Youngstown, Ohio, and began a course of study in the academy, and with the exception of two winters, during which he taught school, continued his studies three years. In the spring of 1845 he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. B. F. Richardson, who has since been made a professor in one of the medical colleges in Cincinnati. He studied in the office of that gentleman until the spring of 1847, when he and his father started for Illinois. Taking passage on a boat at Pittsburgh they went down the Ohio to Cairo, thence up the Mississippi as far as Keokuk, where they found the river clogged with ice to such an extent as to stop further progress of the boat. Walking across on the ice to the Iowa side, they walked to Burlington, where they hired a man to row them across the channel to where the ice was sufficiently solid to permit them to walk ashore. This, although a very perilous operation, was accomplished without accident. Having made their way to the Illinois side, they started toward their destination on foot, and arrived at Viola on the second of March. They bought a farm one and a half miles from that village, and while the father returned to Ohio for the family, Jesse attended to putting in their crops. Shortly after the arrival of the family he went to Rock Island and resumed his medical studies in the office of Dr. Winslow S. Peirce, now of Indianapolis. In the fall of 1847 he attended lectures at McDowell's medical college in St. Louis. In the latter part of 1848 he began practising in Millersburg, and in February, 1849, received a diploma from the Rock Island medical college. During his studies in these two cities he distinguished himself as a student of more than ordinary talent, and in his final examination acquitted himself with the highest honors, and received the most flattering encomiums from his fellow students and professors. In September he was stricken with a fever which defied the contents of an apothecary store as well as the skill of any human physician, and for which there was no antidote nearer than the *gold mines of California*. He accordingly prescribed for himself a trip to that country. In company with his friend Dr. Peirce he took a boat to New Orleans, and there took passage in a steamer bound for Panama. Shortly after landing in Gorgonia, he in company with several others stepped into a restaurant for dinner. Having partaken of the bountiful repast, he



put his hand in his pocket and made the startling discovery that his money was gone. *His pocket had been picked.* His feelings may easily be imagined on finding himself penniless in a strange land whose inhabitants spoke a language unknown to him. He went to the American consul, located in that city, and stated his case and produced his diploma. Having convinced that official of the truthfulness of his story, he received the promise of a commission as surgeon on the first vessel that would depart for San Francisco. The first vessel to come in was the "Sea Queen," a British vessel from Dundee, Scotland, laden with coal. After being unloaded this vessel was cleaned up, bunks and berths put in and made ready for carrying passengers. This completed she soon hove anchor and departed for San Francisco, in which port she landed on the evening of January 9, 1850. On his arrival here he was prostrated by a fever contracted during his stay in Panama. After remaining a short time he managed, with the assistance of a friend, to get to Marysville, where they lived in a tent until his recovery, when they went to a mining camp known as Rough and Ready, in Nevada county, and began work in the mines. The Doctor remained here until September when he sold his claims and bought two ox teams with which he engaged in hauling supplies from Sacramento to the mines. In the spring of 1851 he again entered the mines, and remained until January, 1852, when he received an appointment as first clerk in the state comptroller's office, by his old friend Dr. Peirce, who had been elected to that position. Ill health soon compelled him to abandon that pursuit, however, and he resolved to try his fortune in Los Angeles, where he embarked in the live stock business, which proved to have been a very lucrative one, and in which he exhibited great financial shrewdness. He continued dealing in stock until January, 1853, by which time he had accumulated about \$10,000, and had resolved to return to Illinois. A treacherous partner, however, vetoed that decision by absconding with all but about \$500 of the doctor's money, and that was consumed in paying detectives and vainly searching for the miscreant. Undaunted by this terrible misfortune, he went to Sonora and again entered the mines. In 1856 the doctor was chosen by the republican element of the county as a candidate for the legislature, and although that party was in its infancy, and so decidedly in the minority as to render his election hopeless, he entered the contest with the same vim and enthusiasm that has ever characterized his actions. He "stumped" the entire district and came within eighty votes of being elected. May 1, 1857, he sailed for New York and arrived in that city about the last of the month. After spending several months visiting the principal cities of the east, he

returned to the sucker state, which has since been his home. The doctor is a prominent member of the scientific and historical association of Mercer county, of which organization he was the first president, also a member of the state medical association. He was married in 1859 to Miss Salina P. Cowden, whose father was one of the pioneer settlers of the county. He is the father of five children, four of whom are living: Kate M., born August 10, 1863; Charles Edward, born August 12, 1866; Pearl, born September 3, 1870 (died October 12, 1870); and Lena, born September 30, 1873. The Doctor located in Viola in March, 1861, and since that time has devoted his entire attention to his professional duties. Although a politician of great foresight and sagacity, he has never been an office seeker, and contrary to the wishes of his many friends, he has furthered the political interests of others rather than those of his own.

HUGH B. FRAZIER, son of John and Nancy (Veach) Frazier, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1835. In 1847 the family removed to Mercer county, where Hugh assisted his father on the farm in the summer and attended a district school in the winter, until 1854, when he went to Rock Island and attended school during the years of 1854-5. In the fall of 1826 he went to Detroit, Michigan, and attended school four months at Gregorie's commercial college, from which institution he graduated. In 1858 he went to Kansas and bought land near Olathee, intending to devote his attention to farming, but becoming dissatisfied with the monotony of farm life he returned to Illinois, where he remained until August, 1862, when he enlisted as a private in Co. D, 83 Ill. Inf., and was with that regiment during all its weary marches, all its hardships in camp and on the battle-field. He was soon promoted to the position of sergeant, then to 1st sergeant, finally to 2d lieutenant, and acted in that capacity until the close of the war. He relates an incident that occurred near Bowling Green, Kentucky, which, like many other occurrences of a like nature, is not found in general histories. He in company with his father-in-law, Lieut. Robb, and five other soldiers, were detailed to guard a train on the Louisville & Memphis railroad en route for Bowling Green. The train was thundering along at the rate of twenty miles an hour, when it suddenly left the track and plunged into a steep embankment, and almost simultaneously with the crash came a volley of musketry from the hill above, accompanied by oaths and a demand for all "on board to surrender." Two of the union soldiers were shot dead the first volley, but the remaining five seizing their arms returned the fire, killing four rebels, one of whom was the captain, after which the guerillas, for such they were, beat a hasty retreat. A telegraph wire was cut and an engine



telegraphed for which arrived within an hour and the train proceeded on its way. Lieut. Robb afterward received a very complimentary letter from Gen. Rosseau, congratulating him and his brave little band that saved the train. In June, 1865, the regiment was mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, and returned to Chicago, where after receiving their pay they disbanded. In October of the same year Mr. Frazier, in company with his brother-in-law, V. R. Harriott, embarked in the dry goods and grocery business in Viola. Since that time Mr. Frazier has been one of the most active business men in the county and has exhibited excellent business qualifications and great financial skill in all his undertakings. Mr. Frazier was married on July 4, 1864, to Miss Mary Robb, a daughter of Lieut. Robb, and is father of six children: John, Fred, Ada H., Nannie A., Edwin R., and Sadie R. Mr. Frazier is a member of Masonic Lodge, No. 577, with which he united August 24, 1871, and is worshipful master of that lodge, also a member of Horeb Chapter, No. 4, at Rio, and Everts Commandery, No. 18, at Rock Island. Mr. Frazier started out in the world with nothing in the way of wealth, but possessing an ambitious disposition, he has accumulated a large competence, besides winning for himself the reputation of being a successful business man.

WILLIAM P., son of John and Eleanor Collins, was born in the town of East Liverpool, Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1828. John Collins was a merchant in that village, and continued business until the spring of 1837, when he came west to Illinois. With his family and personal effects loaded on a flat boat, without sail or rudder, he floated down the Ohio river as far as Cincinnati. A buggy box, which was fastened on the roof of the craft, and the wheels, suspended from the sides by ropes, attracted attention on the voyage, and in passing steamboats was the subject of frequent jests. They were often asked if they intended, in case the river went dry, to proceed on wheels. At Cincinnati the clumsy vessel was exchanged for two barrels of flour, and the family took passage on a steamboat, and arrived at New Boston, without having encountered any mishaps worthy of note, in May, 1837. On landing, a gang of red men, loaded with fish and trinkets, came on board the boat for the purpose of trading with the whites. This circumstance reminded them that they were in a wild country. As the trials and hardships of the early settlers during the pioneer period will be portrayed in the general history, we will pass over that part of Mr. Collins' life, and speak of his career since he arrived at the years of manhood. Mr. Collins was married in 1857 to Miss Mary R. Bradford, and is the father of ten children, nine of whom are living: Ella M., Clara A. (deceased), Lottie E., William R., John B., Effie J.,

Samuel E., Charles H., Mary E., Mattie Bell. He is a prominent member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united several years previous to the organization of the Viola congregation. By hard labor and skillful financiering, Mr. Collins has acquired a large property. He has excellent advantages for stock raising, and turns his attention mostly to that business. Having come west when Illinois was almost a wilderness, he has lived to see cities and villages take the place of the log cabin and the Indian wigwam. Where he once saw the bounding deer, and listened to the wolf's long howl, are heard the shriek of the locomotive and the chiming of church bells. His father and mother now lie in the cemetery, north of Viola, and their quiet resting place is marked by a granite shaft. Hand in hand they walked down the journey of life, sharing its sorrows and its joys, and after a long career of usefulness Mr. Collins grew weary and laid down his burden by the wayside. Mrs. Collins remained on earth but a few years after, and they now lie side by side in death, leaving as a legacy to their descendants a noble example, which, if followed, will win for them the respect of the entire community in which they live.

MOSES K. FLORY, wagon manufacturer, son of Jonas and Catharine Flory, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, March 1, 1832. In 1839, the family removed to Mercer county, Illinois, and located in what is now North Henderson township. For a few years after locating here his father ran a saw-mill, located on Pope creek. While operating this mill, he did work for the settlers for many miles around, his being the only mill from the eastern part of the county to the Mississippi. Moses received his education in an old log school-house that stood about a mile south of the residence of James Bridger. This building was one of those traditional structures, with a puncheon floor, clapboard roof, and hewn seats. In 1844 Moses, then a mere lad, went to Galena, Illinois, and worked a season in the lead mines. In 1848 he went to Ohio, and worked two years at carpentering, near Toledo. Returning in 1850, he began working his sister's farm, which he continued three years. In 1854 he again resumed carpenter work in company with John Longley, of Rivoli township. In August, 1861, Mr. Flory enlisted in Co. A, 30th Ill. Inf., and was with that regiment in the battles of Belmont, Fort Henry, Donelson, Raymond, Jackson (Mississippi), Fort Gibson and Champion Hill. He was taken prisoner at Fort Donelson, February 15, 1862, and was taken to Memphis, where he was kept twenty-eight days, thence to Tuscaloosa, where he remained three months, after which he was removed to Macon, Georgia, where he was kept four months, and was then taken to Richmond, where he was paroled October 19, 1862, and sent to Washing-



ton, thence to Springfield, Illinois, and from there to Benton barracks, St. Louis, whence he was sent to rejoin his regiment, at Memphis. During a part of his imprisonment, he was under the care of the notorious Captain Wirtz, whose name will go down as the archfiend of American history. After doing duty at Rock Island eight months, he was discharged, and again returned to his old home, having faithfully and bravely discharged the duty to which his country called him. In 1866 Mr. Flory located in Viola, where he built a wagon shop. Being naturally endowed with an inventive genius, he invented a revolving hay rake, upon which he received a patent in 1872. He began manufacturing for the wholesale trade in that year, and has no trouble in selling all he has the capacity to make. Mr. Flory is a prominent member of the A.F.A.M. lodge, No. 577, at Viola.

JOSEPH A. GODING, son of Amos and Lucinda Goding, was born near Farmington, Franklin county, Maine, February 2, 1848. He received his education in the public and state normal school at Farmington, graduating from the latter institution June 4, 1868. In October, 1869, he came to Chicago, and taught school six months near Dunton, in Cook county. In the summer of 1870 he came to Mercer county, and began teaching in the "Brickyard" school-house in New Boston township. He was married May 14, 1872, to Miss Sarah E. Noble, daughter of E. J. Noble, one of the pioneer settlers of New Boston township. After his marriage he returned to his native state, and farmed two seasons on the old homestead, teaching in the winter. In 1874 he again returned to Mercer county, and was employed as principal of the Millersburg public schools. He taught two years and three months in that village and then came to Viola, having been made principal of the schools in that village. After teaching two years he bought an interest in the dry goods firm of H. B. Frazier & Co., and has been engaged in that business until the present time. The names of Mr. Goding's children in the order of their ages are as follows: Lena, Clara, Bertha, Della, and Maurice R. He is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in the fall of 1876.

VAN R. HARRIOTT was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1831. When he was ten years of age the family removed to Laporte county, Indiana, where they remained until 1846. In that year they removed to Mercer county, Illinois, and located near Norwood. Van worked on a farm in Greene township two seasons and then went to breaking prairie with an ox team, which he continued for several seasons. In the spring of 1859 Mr. Harriott, in company with a number of acquaintances, started across the plains with an ox team,

and arrived at Pike's Peak in July, after a long, tedious journey. Soon after arriving there a company was formed, of which Mr. Harriott was a member, and the party began work in the mines. Not being fortunate in locating their claims, a part of the company returned to Illinois in September. In 1864 Mr. Harriott enlisted in the 140th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., which regiment enlisted for a hundred days. From Dixon they were sent to Springfield; thence to Memphis, where they did guard duty on the Memphis & Charleston railroad for about three months. At the expiration of that time the regiment came to Chicago, and from there were sent to Missouri, where they remained two weeks, after which they returned to Chicago and were mustered out. Mr. Harriott was married in 1852 to Miss Mary R. Frazier, a native of Trumbull county, Ohio. The fruits of the union are four children: Jesse C. (now of Sherman county, Nebraska), Lillian A. (wife of Frank E. Kitzmiller), Salina M., and Arthur V. Mr. Harriott united with the Congregationalist church in 1877, and is also a Mason, having been initiated into its mysteries in 1865, and has twice been master of the Viola lodge. In 1865 Mr. Harriott embarked in the dry goods and grocery business in Viola, in company with his brother-in-law, H. B. Frazier. In 1869 the firm dissolved, and Mr. Harriott entered the hardware and grocery business in the brick hotel building. In 1871 Mr. Harriott closed out his business and engaged in farming on land half a mile south of the village, which he had bought in 1868. During the years that followed he was engaged in various pursuits until the fall of 1880, when he again embarked in the dry goods and grocery business in company with M. K. Flory. He is now in the grocery business in company with John Ashenhurst, and the firm is doing a lucrative business. Mr. Harriott is the present postmaster at Viola, and discharges his duties in that capacity to the entire satisfaction of the people.

FRANCIS A., son of Henry and Sarah Hoagland, was born in New Bedford, Pennsylvania, April 5, 1838. In 1846 the family emigrated to Mercer county and located in Greene township. His father was the first justice of the peace in the township, and, with the exception of a few months, held the position until the time of his death, which occurred in 1880. Frank remained at home with his parents until September, 1861, when he enlisted in Co. G, 30th Ill. Inf. He was with that regiment during the battles of Belmont, Brittan's Lane, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Corinth, Grand Gulf, Champion Hill, Raymond, siege of Vicksburg, and in the Atlanta campaign. He states that during the siege of that city the picket lines were only about forty yards apart, and the boys in blue and those in gray exchanged remarks



as familiarly as though they had been neighbors and friends instead of foes. He also participated in the battle of Jonesboro and many other severe skirmishes. He was discharged at Springfield, Illinois, in August, 1685, after which he returned home and resumed his labors on the farm. For many years after he was engaged in breaking prairie. He was married September 21, 1881, to Miss Jane A. Storey, and now resides on a farm he recently purchased in section 23 in Greene township.

JOHN W. MCCREIGHT, son of Matthew and Elizabeth McCreight, was born in Adams county, Ohio, December 29, 1828. In 1851 Mr. McCreight came to Mercer county and located at Sunbeam. In 1854 he purchased land in Section 31, Greene township. In February of that year he was married to Miss Rebecca E. Nevius, daughter of William I. Nevius, one of the pioneers of Mercer county. It is supposed by the early settlers that Mrs. McCreight was the first white female child born in the county. The names of the children born to the couple are: Joel S., Walter E., William S., Henry A., Effie L. (deceased in her infancy), Lora N., and Louisa B. Mr. and Mrs. McCreight are members of the United Presbyterian church, having united with that organization early in life.

ROBERT GUTHRIE, son of Andrew and Susan Guthrie; was born in Dumbartonshire, Scotland, August 16, 1844. In 1849 the family emigrated to Canada, where they remained until the fall of 1864, when they removed to Mercer county, Illinois, and settled in the southern part of Preemption township. He was married March 1, 1870, to Miss Isabella Stewart, a native of Scotland. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Jennie S. (deceased), Susie A., Minnie B. (deceased), Andrew W., and Charles S. Mr. Guthrie is a prominent member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1869 at Viola. He owns a fine farm of 350 acres in sections 4 and 5 in Greene township.

ROBERT M. PINKERTON, son of Joseph and Violet (Scott) Pinkerton, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1841. In 1850 the family removed to Mercer county, and located on section 6 in Greene township. In 1859 Robert was afflicted with a severe attack of the gold fever, and consequently started for Colorado territory, with an ox team; the party, consisting of several wagons and men, arrived at the foot of the Rocky mountains after a long, tedious journey of sixty-three days. Mr. Pinkerton first entered the Gregory mines, forty-four miles west of Denver, and joined in the great struggle for wealth. He remained in the mountains until the fall of 1862. During his stay there he traveled over the ground where Leadville now stands, little dreaming of the

fabulous wealth hidden under his feet. On returning home he turned his attention to farming and coal mining on his father's farm, which he continued until 1863, when he bought a farm in section 5 and began business for himself. Mr. Pinkerton was married in 1863 to Miss Caroline J. Breckinridge, and is now father of six children: Archie M., Cecil, Guy, Robert C., Allie V., and Maggie Z. In 1877 he removed to Viola, and embarked in the grain and lumber business. Since that time his brother William joined him in business, and the firm purchased the elevator formerly owned by E. J. Morgan. Mr. Pinkerton is a member of the I.O.O.F., lodge No. 336, at Aledo, with which he recently united, and also a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which he has belonged since 1866. April 4, 1882, he was elected supervisor of the township, and being a man of excellent judgment will make an efficient officer.

MATTHEW B. KENNEDY, butcher, son of John and Margaret Kennedy, was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, March 14, 1839. When ten years of age, the family emigrated to Morgan county, Ohio, where they resided until the spring of 1856, when they removed to Mercer county, Illinois, and bought land in sections 19 and 20 in Greene township. In 1857 the father died, leaving a family of four children, Brice being the eldest. The old gentleman was the first to be buried in the Viola cemetery. Brice remained at home with the family until May 3, 1861, when he enlisted in Co. F, 17th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and was with that regiment at Fort Donelson. Shortly after this battle he was taken sick, and was sent to Cairo, Illinois, where he was detailed at the soldiers' home for a time, and then made provost-guard. He remained here about five months, when he again joined his regiment, then at Lake Providence, Louisiana. He went with the regiment to Vicksburg, and was again taken ill and sent to Memphis, where he remained about two weeks, when he and a friend stole away, got aboard of a boat and again joined the regiment. He was discharged November 3, 1863, and returned home and resumed his labors on the farm. He contracted heart-disease while in the service of his country, from which he has not yet recovered. Mr. Kennedy was married in 1866 to Miss Bell J. Carnahan, a native of Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, and is the father of six children, whose names, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Nannie A., Maggie L., David C., George M., John C., and Ralph W. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1859.

FRANK E. KITZMILLER was born in Mansfield, Ohio, July 19, 1848. When he was five years of age the family emigrated to Williams county, Ohio. Frank remained home with his parents until February



22, 1863, when he enlisted in Co. B, 38th Ohio Vol. Inf., and was with that regiment in the battles of Mission Ridge, Jonesboro, and Raleigh, also the Atlanta and Carolina campaigns, and the siege of Savannah. Mr. Kitzmiller came to Illinois in 1867, and located in Morris, where he remained until the spring of 1869, when he came to Viola and opened a paint shop. He remained in the painting business until 1879, when he was employed as clerk for the firm of H. B. Frazier & Co., in Viola. He was married June 7, 1870, to Miss Lillian Harriott, daughter of V. R. Harriott, of Viola. The names of his children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Leland V. (deceased), Ray, Bert, and Harry. He is a member of the Congregational church with which he united in 1870. Also a member of I.O.O.F., lodge No. 236, at Aledo.

EDWIN T. CROSBY, son of Carlos and Emily Crosby, was born in Peoria, Illinois, October 21, 1847. When Edwin was two years of age the family removed to Pekin, Illinois, where his father was engaged in the drug and jewelry business until 1856, when he removed to Viola, and, in company with his brother, Delos, embarked in the dry goods and grocery business. The firm of Crosby Brothers was one of the first in the village. When Edwin was seventeen years of age his father died, and he was thrown upon his own resources to make his way in the world. He began clerking, and worked for different parties in that capacity until 1870, when he, in company with Martin Phares, now of Galesburg, embarked in the grocery business. He was made postmaster in that year and held the office until 1875. His business career has been one of success and prosperity. Although compelled to contend with many disadvantages, he has gradually worked to the top, and through his financial shrewdness and energy has placed himself among the foremost business men of the county.

THOMAS LEARY, farmer, son of Dennis and Mary (Downey) Leary, was born in county Cork, Ireland, in 1822. When twenty years of age Thomas emigrated to Canada West, where he remained two years, after which he went to New York. After remaining one year in that state, during which time he worked in a brick-yard in Buffalo, he removed to Ohio, where he assisted in laying the track on the Sandusky & Mansfield railroad, which was the first road built in the state. In August, 1845, he turned his face westward and arrived in Chicago in the latter part of that month. At that time the city was but a struggling village, and little did he dream that he would live to see a great city of 600,000 inhabitants rise as if by magic on the ground that was then covered by water, rushes, and prairie grass. Mr. Leary worked three years on the Illinois canal, after which he went to Indiana, and remained about



WILLIAM STUART.





ten years. In the fall of 1856 he came to Mercer county, and bought land in section 12, Greene township. Mr. Leary was married in 1848 to Miss Mary Dwyer, a native of Ireland, who died in 1864. The names of the children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Mary A., Joseph P., Daniel (deceased), Catharine, Cornelius (deceased), John, Bridget, and Ellen. He and his family are members of the Roman Catholic church, with which he united very early in life. Mr. Leary is one of the leading farmers in the township, and is highly respected by the entire community. He furnishes an example of energy, resolution, and hard labor; of how a young man with nothing but a pair of strong hands and a firm will may carve himself a heritage and a good name.

WILLIAM M. PINKERTON, dealer in lumber and grain, son of Joseph and Violet (Scott) Pinkerton, was born near Warren, Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1828. When twenty years of age William came to Mercer county. In the winter of 1848-9 he made his home with Judge Gilmore and taught school in that district. In the spring of 1849 he bought land in section 16, in Greene township, and began farming. He was present at the organization of the township in 1854, and remained in the township until 1877, when he removed to Mercer township and located on land he had bought in 1856. Mr. Pinkerton was married October 30, 1850, to Miss Eliza Carnahan. The Carnahan family have been in the United States since 1770, when the grandfather of Mrs. Pinkerton emigrated to the "new world" and located in Adams county, Pennsylvania. He was a soldier in the war of the revolution. Mrs. Pinkerton's father was born February 2, 1792, in Allegheney county, Pennsylvania. The names of Mr. Pinkerton's children, in the order of their ages, are: Willard S., John Ward (deceased), James and Julian (both deceased), Mary L. (deceased), Maria M., Alice M., Abraham L., and Jennie V. Willard married a daughter of Jeremiah Boyer, and the eldest living daughter, Maria, married John Neff, now a resident of Bayard, Iowa. Mr. Pinkerton is a member of the Congregational church, with which he united in 1875 in Aledo. In 1862 Mr. Pinkerton enlisted in the 83d Ill. Inf. and was with the regiment when it made the gallant fight in defense of Fort Donelson. The last eighteen months of his service was spent in detached service in a corps of topographical engineers connected with the headquarters of Gen. Thomas, at Nashville. During his absence Mrs. Pinkerton took charge of financial affairs at home and conducted them skillfully and successfully. On his return he entered more largely into stock raising, and success has ever attended his efforts. He has one of the finest farms in Mercer county and is now enjoying



the fruits of his toil. In November, 1881, Mr. Pinkerton removed to Viola, where, in company with his brother Robert, he entered the grain and lumber business, having purchased the elevator owned by other parties, and the firm of Pinkerton Brothers are doing an extensive grain and lumber business.

Dr. EBENEZER L. MCKINNIE, physician, was the son of Ebenezer and Ruhamah McKinnie, and was born in the village of Cadiz, Harrison county, Ohio, February 24, 1848. The family resided in that county until 1856, when they emigrated to Ogle county, Illinois, where they remained about nine months, and then removed to Millersburg, Mercer county, where they resided a year and removed to Crawfordsville, Iowa. Ebenezer received his education in the high school at that place and immediately after completing his studies he began teaching in the adjacent country, which he continued until 1869, when he came to Viola and began a course of medical study in the office of his brother, Dr. P. L. McKinnie, now of Moline. In 1871 he purchased the stock of drugs owned by Park & McKinnie and embarked in that business. In 1880 he received his diploma from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Keokuk, Iowa, and began the practice of medicine at Viola, where he has since had a very lucrative practice. The doctor was married in October, 1870, to Miss Mary E. Moore, a native of Mahoning county, Ohio. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, having united with that society at Crawfordsville, Iowa, in 1865.

OLIVER ELLIS, farmer, son of Manoah and Deidema Ellis was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in 1808. The family on the father's side are of English origin, his great grandfather having emigrated from that country at an early day and located on Cape Cod. He had five sons, one of whom was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch who spent his younger days on the sea. When Oliver was six years of age his father emigrated to Crawford county, Pennsylvania. Here Oliver resumed his education in a log school house two miles distant from his father's cabin. Mr. Ellis was married in 1830 to Miss Mary Hill, a native of Pennsylvania. The pair had four children born to them, namely: James, Olive (now Mrs. Wilson), Calkins, Phoebe (wife of Jerry Mathews), and Amelia (wife of George Griffin), who recently died from injuries sustained from being kicked by a horse. In 1850 Mr. Ellis emigrated to Illinois and bought land in section 12 in Greene township. For many years he performed his labors with oxen. By hard labor and economy he has accumulated a respectable portion of the world's goods to maintain him in his declining years.

RUSSELL PARK, farmer, son of John H., and Elizabeth (Gottshall) Park, was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, October

23, 1831. His father was born in Pennsylvania August 19, 1803. He and his wife were both members of the old school Presbyterian church and their remains now lie in the cemetery at Farlow's Grove. The old gentleman was at one time a merchant in Milton, Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, but in 1839 decided to try his fate on the broad prairies of the west. He accordingly loaded his earthly possessions into a country wagon and set out on his journey toward the setting sun, arriving in Mercer county in August of that year, and bought a claim near Edwards river for \$150, erected a cabin thereon and began the laborious task of improving his farm. By the aid of his sons he had accumulated and was, at the time of his death, the owner of 520 acres of land. The first coal known in the county was discovered on his farm, in 1840, and in 1845 he began to develop a mine. The Farlow's Grove postoffice was removed to his residence in an early day, and he was the first postmaster in Greene township, which position he held until the office was established at Viola. Russell Park when twenty-one years of age purchased eighty acres of land from his father in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 3, built a house, and was married November 17, 1852, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander and Margaret Henry. They are parents of the following named children : James, Russell, Mary, Elizabeth, Maggie, William A., Joseph D., Mary, Emma, Rachel, William Henry, John Alexander, and Julia E.; of these William A., John A., Mary E., and Joseph D., are dead. James is married to Miss Agatha Budlier, and Maggie to Stephen Farwell of Preemption township. In 1865 Mr. Park sunk a coal shaft near his house, and in 1873 a second shaft, opening up a four-foot vein of very fine coal, from which he has taken as high as 50,000 bushels per year. Mr. Park has increased the original size of his farm to 300 acres, which he and his son carry on in connection with his coal business. He is a member of the masonic order, and with his wife united with the old school Presbyterian church. Miss Elizabeth Collins was his first school teacher. Without any educational advantages more than was afforded by the district school, he has made himself an intelligent and successful business man. He has been four times elected to the office of supervisor, and was recently appointed to fill the place of the incumbent, who is about to remove. Mr. Park is a man of worth in the community; kind, sociable and fair in his dealings, he is respected by all.

WILLIAM STUART (deceased), the subject of this sketch, was born in county Donegal, Ireland, in 1814. In 1844, he came to America, making the voyage from Liverpool to New Orleans in a sailing vessel. From New Orleans he came up the river to New Boston,



thence eastward across the country. Being attracted by the fertile prairies of what is now Suez township, he purchased a claim and located on section 19. Mr. Stuart was married in 1846, to Miss Jane Patterson, also a native of county Donegal, Ireland. Three sons were born to the couple, all of whom are living, and whose names, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Joseph, A. C., and Amzi. The subject of this sketch died August 6, 1881, of dropsy of the heart. The funeral ceremonies were performed at his residence, and the remains interred in the Norwood cemetery. The large tract of land accumulated by the deceased, during his industrious life, is now under the supervision of his worthy sons.

GEORGE L. F. ROBINSON, attorney and teacher, son of William C. and Fanny (Bouene) Robinson, was born in Stockbridge, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, September 27th, 1832. His father had, in his younger days, been a teacher by profession, having been a preceptor in the Attleboro academy, Massachusetts. He removed from there to Rutland county, Vermont, in about the year 1810, and engaged in the manufacturing business and continued about four years, and subsequently removed to, and remained in, the birth place of the subject of this sketch, who, having received the advantage of a New England academical education, commenced teaching among the Berkshire hills, when a mere youth, and having had the advantages of parents highly accomplished in both music and literature, and also inheriting a gift of nature in that direction, early sought, with precocious intention, the favored vocations, for which he seems to have been so admirably adapted. Coming to Illinois when the school system of the west was in its infancy, he has for long years been prominently identified with those interests, and having enjoyed first grades from every superintendent in the county, also having acquitted himself with great credit in adjoining counties, and although a pioneer teacher, is live, progressive, and awake to the advancement that has, and is being made, in our present admirable school system. When the war broke out, Prof. Robinson, although denied the privilege of becoming a soldier, was none the less active in furthering, by every means in his power, the triumph of right over wrong, as his record fully shows. It is no wonder, when we see his standing on the superintendent's record, that his services are being sought in this and adjoining counties, where he is teaching for the third term with the same success that has ever attended his effort.

JOSEPH PINKERTON, farmer, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, January 9, 1798. His father, William Pinkerton, was also a native of that state. His mother's maiden name was Hannah Kennedy, also of

Pennsylvania. His grandfather, William, was a native of Londonderry, Ireland; his grandmother on his father's side was Elizabeth Criswell, also of Pennsylvania. The maiden name of his grandmother Kennedy, was Agnes McMahon, a native of Scotland, and his grandfather Kennedy was from Tyrone, Ireland. When the subject of this sketch was twenty-eight years old his parents removed to Trumbull county, Ohio, and there his father died, at the age of eighty-two, and his mother, in her eightieth year. He purchased a farm in the town of Berzetta, in Trumbull county, and was married in Howland, in March 23, 1827, to Miss Violet Scott, a native of Chester county. Here he had twelve children born to him. Their names, in the order of their ages, are: William M., James S., Hannah L. (wife of Joseph Carnahan), John C., Jane G. (wife of Richard Cabeen), Mary E. (wife of Robert Cabeen), George W., Robert M., Alice L. (wife of Hiram Dunlap), Thirza A. (wife of Newton Dunlap), Margaret R. (deceased in her fourteenth year), and Amanda V. (wife of Otis Morey). All of this number came to Illinois by teams, in 1850, and only the eldest daughter has removed from Mercer county, she being in Kansas. In Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Pinkerton were connected with the Presbyterian church, and subsequently in Illinois, but that organization becoming extinct, they united with the Methodist church, at Viola. This venerable couple are widely known in Mercer county, and possess the respect of all. With them, the shadows of life are lengthening toward the east, and when the hour comes for them to lie down by the wayside, there will be many other mourners besides the sons and daughters they have reared, and to whom they leave a noble example.

JOHN C. PINKERTON, farmer, son of Joseph and Violet (Scott) Pinkerton, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, September 27, 1833. In 1850 the family emigrated to Illinois, and located in Greene township, Mercer county. Mr. Pinkerton received his education in a district school. He remained at home, assisting his father on the farm, until twenty-one years of age, when he began breaking prairie with an ox team, which occupation he followed for about five years. In 1856 he bought eighty acres of land in sections 5 and 8, and began farming for himself. He remained here until 1875, when he purchased the farm formerly owned by D. Y. Cowden in section 17. By hard labor and good management he has accumulated 200 acres of excellent land and a beautiful home. Mr. Pinkerton was married in the spring of 1859 to Miss Mary J. Jackson, a native of Pennsylvania. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are: Herbert W., Robert G., William J., John S., and Raymond. He is a prominent member of



the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1870, having formerly been a Methodist.

JOHN C. GARDNER, farmer, son of Richard and Sarah Gardner, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in March, 1846. When John was seven years of age the family emigrated to Illinois, and located near Oxford, Henry county. He remained at home and assisted his father on the farm until March 23, 1864, when he enlisted in Co. C, 112th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and was sent to join that regiment at Kennesaw mountain. He was with the regiment during the Georgia campaign. The regiment moved from Atlanta to Decatur, where they remained ten days, when Hood drove the union forces back to Columbus, where they held the rebels in check for a time. He also participated in the terrible conflict at Franklin and also the battle of Nashville, after which they marched to the Tennessee river, driving Hood before them. Here they took transports and went to Cincinnati, thence to Columbus, and thence to Alexandria, Virginia, by way of Washington. They remained eleven days, and were then sent to Fort Fisher, North Carolina. After this Mr. Gardner was with his regiment during the battles of Wilmington, North Carolina, and Fort Anderson. After a series of skirmishes the army arrived at Raleigh, and was there during the review. He was discharged in July, 1865, at Raleigh, with the 65th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., having been transferred to that regiment a short time previous. After his discharge he returned home, and began farming in Mercer. Mr. Gardner was married December 24, 1869, to Miss Rebecca H. Carroll, a native of Milbrook, Mercer county, Pennsylvania. The names of Mr. Gardner's children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: William W., Edith B., and Harry C. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1869.

JOHN G. GILBERT, son of Henry and Sally A. Gilbert, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, June 12, 1845. In 1856 the family came to Illinois, and bought land in section 35 in Greene township. John remained at home, working on the farm, until seventeen years of age, when he enlisted in Co. F, 140th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and was discharged October 27, 1864. In 1866 he began working at the carpenter trade with E. J. Morgan, with whom he learned the trade. In 1869 he embarked in business for himself, the first contract being the residence now owned by A. Park. Since that time he has erected buildings in Mercer, Warren, Knox, Henry, and Rock Island counties. His superior workmanship is testified to by all who have secured his services. In the winter of 1869-70 he erected a business house on the corner of Shepard and Eighth streets in Viola. Since that time he has con-

structed extensive additions to the original corner building, and is now the owner of three handsome store-rooms, forming a building 64×64 feet. In 1878 he erected a handsome residence in the eastern part of the village, where he now resides. Among the silent testimonials of his mechanical skill, are the residences of Robert Park (two miles north of Viola), Mrs. Mauk (at Suez), also those of S. E. Russell, Mrs. Bissell, and the Presbyterian church at Viola; also the school building and two churches at Cable, the former being the finest of its kind in the county. Mr. Gilbert was married in December, 1872, to Miss Lizzie Ramsey, a native of Tennessee, and is the father of two children, Vinnie R. and Harvey B., aged eight and six years. He is a member of the masonic lodge, No. 577, at Viola, with which he united in 1869, also a member of Horeb Chapter, No. 4, at Rio.

JACOB, son of John P. and Christine E. Krause, was born in Baden, Germany, near Munheim, June 3, 1842. In 1844 the family emigrated to America, and located in Bennington, Wyoming county, New York. Jacob remained at home assisting his father on the farm until the fall of 1861, when he turned his face toward the setting sun and landed in Richland Grove township, where he farmed until August 8, 1862, when he enlisted in Co. C, 102d Ill. Inf., and was with that gallant regiment at Resacca, Cassville, Newhope church, Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochee Heights, Peachtree creek, and in the Atlanta campaign in all its marches and hardships while defending the integrity of the country's flag. He was discharged June 14, 1865, at Chicago. July 4, 1866, Mr. Krause was married to Sarah L. Tenney, a native of Mercer county, by whom he is the father of six children: Millie M., William S. (deceased), Ora L., Jennie L., Maud M., and Clara A. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1869, at Oxford.

SAMUEL E., son of William and Ann (Stuart) Russell, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, April 11, 1819. At the age of twenty-three he came to Illinois, and entered land in section 23, Greene township. For fifteen years after locating in Greene township, Mr. Russell worked at wagon making, having erected a shop near the site of his present residence. In 1857 he abandoned that business and commenced improving his farm, and since that time has devoted his entire attention to farming and stock raising. Mr. Russell was married in 1844 to Miss Ann Collins, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of John Collins, one of the pioneer settlers of the county. In 1852 his first wife died, and in September, 1854, he was again married to Miss Effie Cabeen, of Ohio Grove township. The fruits of the latter union are seven children: Annie C., Maggie J., Mary (deceased in her ninth year),



Eunice, James E., Richard, and William C. Mr. Russell is a member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1846, at what is now known as Sunbeam. When the Viola congregation was organized, he united with them and has since been prominently identified with that society, and has been one of the pillars of the church. During the rebellion Mr. Russell used all his influence toward promoting the union cause, and has always been a staunch republican. Through economy and industry he has accumulated a respectable portion of the world's goods, and is a citizen of worth in all respects. He is not an office seeker, but on the contrary has refused being a candidate when his numerous friends have urged him so to do. His deeds of good are done in a quiet, unassuming way, as he does not care to win the approval of the public, but derives his satisfaction from the consciousness of having done his duty.

WILLIAM C., son of James and Hannah Gillespie, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, December 13, 1829. In January, 1853, he came to Illinois and located in Mercer county. In 1854 his father came and bought land in section 12, Mercer township. In the spring of 1860 William went to Colorado where he engaged in the mining business, in Russell's gulch, near Central City. He remained there until December, 1861, when he returned to Moline, Illinois. He desired to enlist but the quota of Illinois being full at that time he went to Leavenworth, Kansas, and enlisted in Co. H, 8th Kan. Inf. He remained with that regiment about sixteen months, when he was discharged on account of having very sore eyes. He returned to Illinois, and his eyes becoming better under medical treatment, he again enlisted in the 140th Ill. Inf., and was with that regiment until they were mustered out. Mr. Gillespie was married February 22, 1871, to Miss Sarah M. Decker, a native of Mercer county. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are: Hannah M., John C., and Ida E. He is a member of lodge No. 252, A.F.A.M., with which he united in 1865, at Aledo.

AMMI BISSELL (deceased) was the son of Porter and Margaret Bissell, and was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, in 1833. In 1854 the family, consisting of the father, mother and six children, came to Mercer county. Ammi first bought land of John Geiger in section 1, in Greene township, and began farming for himself. During the war he availed himself of the excellent opportunities the prices then afforded to either make or break, and began dealing in stock. During the remaining years of his life he dealt largely in live stock, and added every year to his large tracts of land. Mr. Bissell was married in May, 1857, to Miss Mary McKennan, and the couple had five children born

to them, whose names in the order of their ages are: William H., Cleon (deceased), John L. (deceased), Ethelbert, and Frank. Mr. Bissell was an excellent financier, and by shrewd management he accumulated a large amount of property, having at the time of his death nearly 1,100 acres of land, besides a great deal of stock. He was a man who would trade for anything, and, although a close dealer, was never accused of dishonesty, or of taking advantage of the poor. He died from the effects of injuries sustained by being thrown from a horse, and was buried November 26, 1873. His death was deeply mourned by the entire community. Mrs. Bissell now resides in Viola, where she recently erected a handsome residence, and where she has a large circle of friends.

WILLIAM C. BRECKENRIDGE, merchant, Viola, was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, February 18, 1843. Here the family resided until William was fifteen years of age. In 1854 his father died, leaving a family of six children, William being the second oldest. In 1858 the family came to Illinois, and bought land of John Geiger in sections 1 and 12, Greene township. In January, 1862, William went to Kansas, and soon after enlisted in a brigade that was being made up to send to New Mexico; but that expedition being abandoned, they were consolidated with the 8th Kansas at Fort Leavenworth. They first went to Fort Riley and then returned to the city of Leavenworth; thence down the Missouri and Mississippi rivers to Columbus, Kentucky, where they landed and marched to Corinth and joined the main army. This regiment participated in the battles of Murfreesborough, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Franklin, and Nashville. Mr. Breckenridge did excellent service for his country, and was twice wounded. He was discharged in January, 1866, after which he returned to Mercer county and resumed his labors on the farm. He was married in 1868 to Miss Ella Gardner, and is now the father of five children, whose names in the order of their ages are: Frank O., Ina (deceased), Almy, Edna, and Sue. He is a member of the United Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1866. In 1877, he began business in Viola, first putting in a stock of groceries, but is now a member of the dry goods firm of H. B. Frazier & Co.

BENJAMIN F., son of Charles F. and Polly Morey, was born in the town of McKean, Erie county, Pennsylvania, March 10, 1822. At the age of nineteen he came to Warren county, Illinois, where he landed with \$4 in money in his pockets, and an old suit of clothes, which constituted his entire stock of worldly possessions. He began working in a brick-yard in Monmouth. While in that city he was present at the trial of the notorious Jo. Smith, who had been arrested



for being accessory in the murder of Gov. Boggs, of Missouri. He remained in the vicinity of Monmouth about three years, working at various pursuits in the summer and teaching in the winter. He was a member of the first board of supervisors in Warren county in 1854. Mr. Morey was married March 12, 1844, to Miss Philetta Higgins, a native of Vermont. He was a resident of Warren county until the spring of 1861, when he removed to Mercer county and bought land in sections 26 and 27, Greene township. In the spring of 1864 he was elected supervisor of the township, and since that time has acted in that capacity for twelve years, the last two terms being chairman of the board. In the winter of 1864 Mr. Morey was appointed by the township to attend to filling the quota of troops, in order to prevent a draft. He went to Quincy vested with the proper authority and arranged matters so that no draft was made. The names of Mr. Morey's children in the order of their ages are as follows: Otis R. (now a resident of Audubon county, Iowa), Orinda O. (wife of W. L. Smith, deceased in her thirty-fifth year), Ella (wife of Charles Park, now residing in Cloud county, Kansas), Orlin, Oscar, Cornelius, Eunice, Lettie, and Dollie. Mr. Morey is a member of lodge No. 577, A.F.A.M., at Viola, of which institution he was one of the first members. He is a member of no church; but his wife and five of his children belong to the Methodist denomination. During his residence in Mercer county Mr. Morey has taken a prominent part in public affairs, and honesty and integrity have ever characterized his actions.

WILLIAM S., son of John and Martha (Wright) McClannahan, was born in Adams county, Ohio, January 26, 1836. His parents resided in that state until 1855, when they removed to Monmouth, Illinois, where they located a farm part of which was within the corporate limits of the city. William assisted his father on the farm until 1856 when he began a course of study in the Monmouth College, from which institution he graduated in 1860, and in the fall of that year entered the theological seminary at that place. After having attended a term in that institution he was employed as principal of the West ward school. About this time he became convinced that duty called him to another field of action where muskets instead of ferrules were in vogue, and consequently after teaching a week he enlisted in the 17th Ill. Inf., and set out for the theatre of war. He acted as orderly in in that regiment until August, 1863, when he was promoted to second lieutenant. Shortly after his promotion he returned to Monmouth, and resumed his studies in the seminary, which he continued until the spring of 1864, when a company was organized, composed principally of students, and of which Mr. McClannahan was made captain. This

company entered the 138th Ill. Inf., and were mustered out in September of 1864. In the winter of 1864 he again resumed his studies and completed them in the spring of 1865. He was then sent as stated supply to Dayton, Ohio, where he had charge of a congregation one year, when he returned to Grandview, Iowa, where he took charge of two congregations, and for two years was principal of the Grandview Academy. After remaining in Iowa four years, his services were engaged by the United Presbyterian congregation at Viola. He has been pastor of that church since 1870, and during that time has won the love and respect of his entire congregation. Mr. McCannahan was married April 23, 1868, to Miss Mary J. Potter, whose father resides near Wapello, Iowa, and the fruits of the union are six children, whose names in the order of their ages are: Victor A., Zenis H., May M. (deceased), Enoch Potter (deceased), Amy, and Paul H. It is well to add that four members of the McClannahan family enlisted in the service of their country. The father, Capt. McClannahan, and three sons, the youngest of which was the junior member of a family of seventeen children. The father fell at Fort Donelson, where previous to his death he had conducted himself with heroic bravery, and among all the dead who fell in that terrible conflict under the shadow of the banner they made free, none were more deeply mourned than the gray-haired captain.

JOHN B., son of Edward and Rebecca (Reasoner) Smith, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1818. In 1848 the family removed to DeKalb county, Indiana, where they resided eight years. In 1856 his parents removed to Mercer county and bought land in Mercer township. Mr. Smith was married December 26, 1839, to Miss Margaret Boyle, a native of Knox county, Ohio. The names of his children are: Edward, Nancy Harriet (wife of Henry Nesbitt), Randolph D., Jane (wife of Mark Cannum), John E., Ephriam B., Louisa (wife of David Robb), Perry A., Henry, William (deceased), Mary Elizabeth (deceased). Two of Mr. Smith's sons enlisted in the service of their country, Edward in the early part of 1862 in the 88th Ind. Inf., Randolph D. in 1864 in the 45th Ill. Inf. Mr. Smith is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1842, and is also a member of the A.F.A.M. lodge, No. 577, at Viola. Mr. Smith has been constable in the different localities where he has resided for the past twenty-five years. He is a citizen of worth, respected by all who know him.

WALLACE W., son of William and Rachel Pinkerton, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, May 6, 1842. When an infant his father came to Illinois and entered a claim on section 18, in Greene township,



The subject of this sketch remained at home until the fall of 1856. In 1859 he went to Colorado and engaged in mining in Russell Gulch, near Central City, and remained there until the fall of 1861, when he returned to Illinois, where he farmed until August, 1862, when he enlisted in Co. D, 83 Ill. Inf. Was with the regiment but one year, after which he did detached duty, until the close of the war. In September, 1863, he and his three companions rode up to a house in which were hidden seven guerrillas. A skirmish followed in which Mr. Pinkerton was shot in the hand, tearing one finger from the socket. They succeeded in dispatching six of them and the company that was coming up behind captured the seventh. Mr. Pinkerton was discharged June 15, 1865, after which he returned to Illinois. During his residence in Illinois he has been engaged in farming and coal mining. He was married to Miss Elizabeth J. Carroll, who died in 1875. He was again married in 1878 to Miss Nancy Dilley. He is father of two children, whose names in the order of their ages are : Kate and Myrtle. Mr. Pinkerton is, at the present writing, still a resident of Illinois, but is making preparations to start on a long journey toward the setting sun, and intends to cast his lot among the mountains of the west.

ROSWELL C., son of Roswell and Elizabeth Sexton, was born in Herkimer county, New York, in 1803. His parents resided there until he was nine years of age, when they removed to Meadville, Crawford county, Pennsylvania. His father and mother were both natives of Connecticut. During their residence in Meadville his father was the proprietor of a hotel at that place, and it was here that the subject of this sketch received his education. In 1832 he went to Centerville, in the same county, and was married there in 1833 to Miss Mary Peek, a native of New York. He remained in Pennsylvania over twenty years after his marriage. In 1857 he came west and located near Oxford, Henry county, where he remained until 1860, when he came to Viola and began keeping hotel in the Perkins building. The names of Mr. Sexton's children, in the order of their ages, are: William H., now county clerk in Warren county; Prior B., who resides on a farm near Viola; Amelia, deceased in her eighteenth year; Dora, wife of H. Southwell, present superintendent of schools in Rock Island county; Theodore F., who resides in Viola; and Dora, wife of L. Menold, also of Viola. Two of Mr. Sexton's sons enlisted in the service of their country, in defense of the principles they ever held dear. William enlisted in August, 1862, in Co. D, 83d Ill. Inf., and Theodore in March, 1865, in the same regiment and company. William was quartermaster of his regiment, and acted in that capacity until the close of

the war. The family are all prominent members of the Presbyterian church, with which the father united in 1828. Mr. Sexton and sons are all citizens of great worth, and are universally respected. The old people are well advanced in years, and can look back over the pathway of life with pleasure, and console themselves with the thought that for their sons and daughters they leave as a legacy a noble example, a spotless name.

GEORGE W., son of Joseph and Violet (Scott) Pinkerton, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, January 3, 1839. When eleven years of age his father's family emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois. George remained at home on the farm until August, 1861, when he enlisted in a company at Rock Island which was attached to the 14th Mo. Inf., and was sent to Lexington. In the battle of that place the company was taken prisoners, and shortly afterward were paroled and sent to St. Louis where they were discharged. Mr. Pinkerton returned home and remained until July, 1862, when he again enlisted in Co. D, 83d Ill. Inf., and was with that regiment until it was mustered out in July, 1865.

URBAN D., son of Merritt A. and Betsy G. Lathrop, was born in Chenango county, New York, December 5, 1848. When two years of age his parents emigrated to Waukegan, Illinois. After remaining here about three months they removed to Bureau county. Soon after his father began work in the ministry, as a local preacher, in the United Brethren church, and since that time has devoted about twenty-five years of his life to ministerial labor. Urban remained at home on the farm until February 6, 1865, when, although a mere lad, he left school and enlisted in Co. A, 151st Ill. Inf., and was discharged in February of the following year at Springfield, Illinois, after which he returned home and resumed his labors on the farm. The following winter he went to Linn county, Iowa, where he began a course of study in the college at that place. In February, 1872, having received his license from the Wesleyan Methodist church, he took charge of a circuit in Bureau county. In 1878 he received a call from the Hopewell and Hamlet circuit in Mercer county, and he accordingly located in the parsonage at Bethel three miles west of Viola. Mr. Lathrop was married October 15, 1871, to Miss Sarah C. Cartwright, a native of Indiana. The fruits of the union are five children, whose names, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Arme R., Elmer R., Urban C., John M., and Ora E. Mr. Lathrop is president of the Illinois conference, to which he was elected the third term, in the fall of 1881.

JOHN, son of Samuel and Nehusta Griffin, was born in the town of Lee, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, March 29, 1795. He remained at home with his parents until seventeen years of age, when he went



to Athens, New York, where he was apprenticed to learn the weaving trade. He followed that business until nineteen years old, when he was drafted, and, with a New York regiment, sent to Brooklyn Heights, where he took part in the war of 1812. He was married in 1816 to Miss Mary Hoag, a native Columbia county. The family emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, in the spring of 1841, and bought land in section 13 in Greene township. He lived on his farm until June, 1865, when he was called away, leaving a large circle of friends and relatives to mourn his departure. His widow, Mary Griffin, still resides on the old homestead. She was born in Pittstown, New York, June 17, 1798. She united with the Methodist Episcopal church in 1821, and has ever adhered to the faith. She states that the family frequently walked to Farlow's Grove, a distance of four miles, to attend religious services. The names of the children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: William H. (deceased), Henry G. (now a resident of Henry county, Illinois), James M. (deceased), Sarah (deceased), Huldah G. (now the wife of Anson Calkins, of Henry county), Mary E. (deceased), Septimus, and George (deceased). The grim harvester has robbed her of many of her loved ones, and she will probably soon follow, leaving a noble example for those who survive her.

CHARLES W., son of John and Elizabeth Southern, was born in Giles county, Virginia, in 1829. When thirteen years of age his father's family emigrated to Cedar county, Iowa, where he remained until 1850, when he came to Mercer county, Illinois, and bought land in section 21, Greene township. Mr. Southern was married in 1851 to Miss Ruth Hoover, a native of Ohio. The names of their children in the order of their ages, are as follows: Catharine E. (now the wife of George Martin), Sarah E. (now the wife of Taylor Ashenhurst, residing in Adair county, Iowa), William L., and Levi M. Mr. Southern devoted his entire attention to farming until March, 1865, when he enlisted in Co. A, 83d Ills. Inf. He was discharged September 11 in the same year. Mr. Southern has served as commissioner of highways six years and is an efficient officer.

WILLIAM, son of Thomas and Hannah Terrey, was born in Smithtown, Long Island, May 17, 1799. In 1808 his father's family removed to New York city. In 1811 William went to Troy and remained one year, after which he went to Vermont, where he remained until the latter part of 1814, when he returned to Troy, and while there witnessed the peace celebration that took place in January, 1815. While in that city he was engaged as a clerk in a hardware store, which he continued until the fall of 1836, when, owing to the state of his health he resolved to try a change of climate. Although his physician told

him he could not live two years he still survives, and for one of his age is hale and hearty. He came to Buffalo by canal and there took a schooner bound for Chicago. When off North Point on Lake Erie a severe storm struck them and all the heavy articles, including a stock of hardware belonging to Mr. Terrey, was thrown overboard. This mishap left him without anything to speak of, and after reaching Chicago he came out to Mercer county and bought a claim in what is now section 36, Greene township, borrowing money at twenty-five per cent with which to make the purchase. Mr. Terrey was married December 12, 1824, to Miss Barbara Vanalstyne, a native of New York, born December 16, 1806. The fruits of the union was four children, all of whom are dead, and whose names are as follows: Mary E. (deceased February 22, 1826), Isaac B. II. (deceased September 17, 1833), Catharine A. (deceased May 11, 1837), and Emily, (deceased July 24, 1840). James William, adopted shortly after the death of Mary E., was born February 17, 1826. His wife, Barbara, died in August, 1866. He was again married in October, 1868, to Mrs. Chloe H. Burrill, a native of New York. In 1843 Mr. Terrey was elected county assessor, which office he held six terms. In 1849 he was elected county treasurer and served four years in that capacity. When he first assessed Keithsburg there were but three houses in the village.

WARREN L., son of Uriah and Rhoda Smith, was born in Medina county, Ohio, April 27, 1842. The family, consisting of his father, mother and five children, emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, in 1851, and located on section 27, Greene township. His father, in early times, took an active part in public affairs, and was deputy sheriff during the years of 1856, 1857-8. Warren remained at home, assisting his father on the farm until February 15, 1862, when he enlisted in Co. B, 65th Ill. Inf. In 1864, he re-enlisted at Louisville, Kentucky, and was with that regiment during all the terrible battles in which it took part. He was mustered out July 15, 1865, at Greensborough, North Carolina. He was married August 30, 1866, to Miss Orinda Morey, daughter of B. F. Morey, Esq., of Greene township. The fruits of this union are three children, namely: Arthur W., Charles L., and Nellie L. Mrs. Smith died January 25, 1882, in her thirty-fifth year, leaving a large circle of friends and relatives to mourn her loss. Mr. Smith is a member of the A.F.A.M. lodge, No. 577, of which he is a charter member, and was the first Senior Deacon. He is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1867.

GEORGE W., son of John and Emeline Morris, was born September 25, 1853, near Keithsburg, Mercer county, Illinois. In 1879, he purchased the farm commonly known as the Cohran farm, in section 16,



consisting of eighty acres. Previous to that time, he had made his home with his father. He was married March 13, 1879, to Miss Anna Johnston, daughter of William H. Johnston, of Preemption township. The names of their children are George L., and Frank. Mr. Morris is a farmer of enterprise and industry, and we predict for him a bright and prosperous future.

EDWIN, son of John and Emeline Morris, was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, in 1849. He came west with his father in 1851, and has always devoted his attention to farming and stock raising. He was married December 12, 1877, to Miss Emma J. McFate, daughter of Samuel McFate, of Greene township. Mr. Morris, although quite young, has accumulated 160 acres of excellent land in sections 10 and 15.

LUCIUS E., son of Israel A. and Emma Jane Smith, was born in Medina county, Ohio, December 24, 1844. In the year 1850 the family, consisting of the father, mother, and four children, emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, and located on section 27, Greene township. Israel, the father, and the mother, Emma J., were members of the United Presbyterian church, with which they united after coming to Illinois. The subject of this sketch remained at home until March, 1864, when he enlisted in Co. I, 83d Ill. Inf., serving with that regiment until mustered out, after which he served two months in the 61st, being discharged in September of the same year. Married in April, 1872, to Miss Harriet F. Thompson, a native of Iowa. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Edith, Lyman, and Leonard. Mr. Smith now resides on section 28, in Greene township.

JOHN MORRIS was born in Somersetshire, England, May 27, 1816. His father and family came to America in 1840, arriving at New York on July 3. They came to Ohio, where the subject of this sketch bought a farm near Cleveland. On March 1, 1847, he was married to Miss Emeline C. Hicks, at Zanesville. In 1851 Mr. Morris and family came to Illinois, by way of the lakes to Chicago, and thence by teams to Mercer county, locating near Keithsburg. His father died here in 1856, in his sixty-eighth year. After residing in Mercer county five years, Mr. Morris moved to Warren county, but again returned to Mercer in 1865, and bought a farm in section 9 in Greene township, to which he has added, by purchase, other land in the vicinity of Viola. Their children, named in the order of their ages, are: Victoria M., Edwin and Edmond (who are twins), George W., Clara, Eugene (deceased), Elwood J., Ida S., and Cora M.; besides the above named, three sons and one daughter have been buried in infancy.



*H. B. Frazier*





## COMPANY E, NINTH REGIMENT.

The Ninth Illinois Regiment was one of the six regiments organized at Springfield for the three months' service. The regiment was mustered into service April 28, 1861, and ordered to Cairo, where it remained during the three months' service in the brigade commanded by Brigadier G. M. Prentiss.

July 26 the regiment was mustered into the three years' service by Capt. Pitcher, U.S.A. About 500 of the three months' men re-enlisted for three years, and on September 1, 1861, the regiment numbered 1040. September 5, 1861, the regiment was ordered to Paducah, where it passed the winter. During the winter expeditions were made to Milburn, Mayfield, Viola, Calloway Landing, and elsewhere in Kentucky. Three hundred men of the ninth, under command of Maj. Jesse J. Phillips, surprised and attacked a force of 200 rebel cavalry at Saratoga, Lyon county, Kentucky, killing eight, wounding several, and taking thirty-six prisoners, besides many horses and equipments.

On February 5, 1862, the regiment moved up the Tennessee river to Fort Henry, and was in the 1st Brig., 2d Div., Army of the Tennessee, Col. John McArthur commanding the brigade and Gen. C. F. Smith commanding the division. The brigade moved up the left bank of the Tennessee river, driving the rebels from Fort Heiman and capturing all camp equipages and stores there. February 12 they moved to Fort Donelson, and were engaged in that battle with eight companies, sustaining a loss of 35 killed, 166 wounded and 6 prisoners. The part taken in this action by Col. McArthur's brigade, of which this regiment formed a part, has no place in any official report of that action. His brigade, which formed a part of Gen. Smith's division, was detached to the support of the first division, commanded by Brig. Gen. McClermand, and was engaged on the right of our army during the fighting of Saturday, February 15, where most of the severe fighting took place.

February 22 they moved up the Cumberland river and occupied Clarksville. February 27 they moved to Nashville, and returned March 1. March 6 they embarked for Paducah and up the Tennessee to Pittsburg Landing, where they disembarked March 19. The regiment was engaged at the battle of Shiloh, April 6 and 7, and sustained a loss on the 6th of 61 killed, 287 wounded and two prisoners. Out of the twenty-six officers of field, staff and line, twenty-one were killed or wounded. The second brigade was commanded by Brig.-Gen. John McArthur and the division by Brig.-Gen. W. H. L. Wallace.



During the advance upon Corinth the brigade was commanded by Brig.-Gen. J. R. Oglesby and the division by Brig.-Gen. Thomas A. Davies. On the evacuation of Corinth the division, attached to the third army corps (Maj.-Gen. John Pope commanding), pursued the retreating enemy to Booneville, twenty-five miles south. They remained in camp at Corinth from June 13 to August 16, and at Rienzi, fifteen miles south of Corinth, until October 1. The brigade was engaged at the battle of Corinth, October 3 and 4, and sustained a loss of nineteen killed, eighty-two wounded and fifty-two prisoners. After the engagement the regiment was ordered, one battalion to Danville and one to Rienzi, from whence they were ordered to Corinth November 27. December 13 the regiment was ordered out on a reconnoissance to Gemtown, Saltillo, Tupelo, and Marietta, Mississippi. The brigade (9th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., 81st Ohio Inf., 1st batt. Stewart's Ill. Cav., and two guns of Tanrath's battery), commanded by Col. Aug. Mersey, captured seventy-eight prisoners and a large number of horses and mules.

As originally organized, Alexander G. Hawes, of Belleville, was captain of Co. E, which was largely raised in Mercer county. William D. Craig, of Aledo, was first lieutenant, and Roswell B. Patterson, of Belleville, was second lieutenant. The first and last named served in their respective offices until the expiration of their terms in 1864. Wm. D. Craig was promoted June 8, 1862, to the office of first assistant surgeon, and retained that position until the expiration of his term, August 20, 1864.

Near the expiration of their term, the regiment was reorganized and consolidated, and Thomas C. Kidd, of Springfield, was chosen captain of Co. E, Thomas F. McClintock, of Aledo, first lieutenant, and Wm. P. Reese, second lieutenant. David D. Bigger, of Henderson, was surgeon; Charles B. Fleming, of Keithsburg, was second lieutenant of Co. A, and was afterward promoted to first lieutenant. For some time before and after the consolidation, the regiment followed the fortunes of Sherman's bummers, as they were styled, through to Savannah, and north through the Carolinas. In all the 9th is credited with being in 110 battles and skirmishes. Thirteen of Mercer county's best citizens, members of Co. E, gave their lives as a sacrifice for their country's salvation.

## COMPANY C, TWENTY-SIXTH INFANTRY.

This company was made up largely of men from Millersburg and vicinity. The rest of the company was from Bond county. It was organized August 23, 1861, and mustered into service the same day. George W. Keener, of Bond county, was elected captain, Thomas L. Vest, of the same county, first lieutenant, and James A. Dugger, of Millersburg, second lieutenant. Dugger was, upon the resignation of the captain, and again of the first lieutenant, promoted to each position, and in the office of captain he was serving when he was killed, July 16, 1863. James H. Comer, of Millersburg, served awhile as second lieutenant, and James Manies and John McAllister, of the same place, each served as first lieutenant. This company was, however, considered a Bond county company, and in the main was officered by men from that county. Seventeen members, formerly residents of Mercer county, were either killed or met their death from disease contracted in the army.

The 26th regiment was partially organized at Camp Butler, August 31, 1861, and were ordered to Quincy for the protection of that place. Their first arms were as primitive as could be desired, being simply hickory clubs. During the latter part of the year they changed their munitions of war to something but little better, the old English musket. These did quite well, however, as they were not called upon to put them into active use until three other companies (the original number being seven) were added. The marches, engagements, skirmishes and privations, from that time forth, were all that the most heroic could desire. At New Madrid the regiment was first engaged, after which Fort Pillow, siege of Corinth (Co. G of this regiment being the first to enter after evacuation), Iuka, siege of Jackson (where Captain Dugger was killed), Mission Ridge, were scenes of conflict in which the regiment was engaged. At the last named place the regiment suffered greatly, losing in killed and wounded one-tenth of the regiment. On June 1, 1864, there were only 515 men present ready for duty, of whom 463 re-enlisted as veterans. After a home furlough the regiment went on the Atlanta campaign, thence to Savannah, and finally through the Carolinas, and participated in the grand review at Washington. The general features of the marches and engagements are so fully given in this book, in the course of other regiments, that details and repetition are not considered advisable at this time.



## PREEMPTION TOWNSHIP.

Than the township of Preemption, as the traveler now beholds it, it would be hard indeed to conceive a place which affords scenes of greater beauty, homes indicative of more thrift, or resources more available and giving stronger assurance of wealth and luxury ; so diversified is its surface, so various its products. In the north are broad, fertile prairies, occupied by prosperous farmers, who have expended no little money in beautifying their homes. Indeed, the gently undulating prairies invite irresistably to expend time and taste in ornamentation, so fully do they reveal and enhance every touch of beauty given them. They have accordingly been studded with fine residences, set amidst ornamental trees and shrubs and full-blooming orchards ; their rich acres enclosed with neatly trimmed hedges, whose dark-green contrasts harmoniously with the broad fields of waving grain.

In the south the surface is sharply broken and covered in places with a heavy growth of jack-oak and hazel, but well adapted to purposes of grazing. Here also are found large quantities of excellent coal and building stone. The Edwards river affords perfect drainage to the entire township, besides adding to its varied beauty of scenery by the deep gorges and precipitous ravines cut by its numerous tributaries.

Very different, but scarcely less beautiful, must have been this favored section when, in 1835, John Farlow and Hopkins Boone, in short succession, with their families, entered and set about preparing homes. Then the prairie stretched away to the north, brightened with the gorgeous hues of native flowers ; about him was the deep silence of a large white oak forest and all the rudeness and loneliness of the untrodden wilderness. At their doors flowed the beautiful but treacherous Edwards river, its banks now rising rough and precipitous, now spreading out into broad, fertile bottoms. Instead of the busy sounds of labor, the cheerful voices of friendly neighbors, were heard the howl of the wolf, the cry of the wild-cat, the hateful rattle of the rattlesnake. Instead of herds of cattle, deer roamed the prairies and started from the thickets ; instead of the cries of domestic fowl were heard the whir of the grouse's wing, the whistle of the quail, and the call of the wild turkey, while multitudes of geese and ducks covered the ponds in the bottoms of the Edwards river. Yet with all its rudeness, its beauty and promise must have foreshadowed to the mind of the pioneer the present prosperity and wealth of Preemption township. For nearly a year John Farlow and Hopkins Boone had no neighbors, there being

no family between them and Rock river on the north, and but one between them and Monmouth on the south.

In the following spring there came into the settlement, with their families, Rev. John Montgomery, a Presbyterian minister, and James Boone, from Pennsylvania, and from Indiana, Gabriel Barkley, Christopher Miller and Rev. Joseph Jones, a Baptist preacher. But they were still isolated from any considerable settlement, for there was no road, the only line of communication being an Indian trail leading from Monmouth to Rock Island, which could be traveled only on foot or on horseback; there was no postoffice, no convenient market, no mill. But this state of affairs did not long continue; the natural advantages of the location attracted settlers and the increasing population and production demanded increased facilities for the transfer of emigrants and the transportation of crops to market.

In 1832 a road had been laid out from Beardstown to Galena, following the main route to the lead mines located at the latter place. This road, however, was impassable by wagons on account of the river banks being so cut out by the swift currents of the streams, until in 1837 the county built across the Edwards river, on section 34, a trestle bridge, covered with oak plank. The only other regularly laid out road previous to 1840 was the state road, leading from New Boston, Mercer county, to a town in Henry county, now defunct, named Richmond.

In 1838 there came into the northern part of the township Benjamin Clarke, David Little, John Beirbeau, and Charles Minick, settling on section 1 and 2, and E. J. Farwell, on section 14. Only those who went through the trials of these early times can appreciate their severity. Now railroads intersect the county in various directions; hard roads and good bridges make stations easily accessible; mercantile enterprise brings the products of the best mills and factories to one's very doors. Not so at the early days of which we write. Then the settler must go long distances to mill with his grist, and there wait his turn to have it ground. The particular settlers of whom we write, were obliged to go to Monmouth to mill, fording on their way both the Pope creek and the Edwards river. To market their produce they must go miles away over the prairies to New Boston, or to the town of Stevenson, now Rock Island. Had the prices of their crops brought been proportionate to the labor of getting them to market, or had the cost of the necessities of life been correspondingly low, their hardships, though still great, would have been much relieved. Unfortunately, neither condition existed; witness the following schedule of prices: Wheat, twenty-five cents per bushel, to be paid for in goods



(at what prices we shall presently see) ; corn, if one could sell at all, ten cents per bushel ; dressed hogs weighing 200 pounds and upward, \$1.50 per hundred ; hogs of lighter weight at a less price. Mr. Boone relates, as a fair illustration, this incident : learning that a certain merchant at Andalusia, Iowa, was paying \$2 per hundred for good dressed pork, and needing some salt, he and his hand spent a day at killing and dressing such hogs as he had ready for market. Proceeding by a laborious route to Andalusia, he sold his pork, 450 pounds, for \$9. Recrossing the river at Davenport, to Rock Island, he bought his salt, paying therefor \$9, or 450 pounds of dressed pork. In 1837 these settlers obtained a postoffice, located at the residence of Hopkins Boone, the second in the county, called the Farlow's Grove postoffice. The postage was twenty-five cents a letter, just the price of a bushel of wheat. The mail came at long intervals and irregularly, carried on horseback along the old Indian trail. As the county grew, the postal facilities increased, till now the office, removed since to the village of Preemption, receives and sends daily mails. With the growth of the farming interests, the development of the mineral resources has kept equal pace. The demand for stone has steadily increased with the population. The quarries have furnished the stone for most of the cellars and wells of the township. Shortly after the settlement of the township, coal was found cropping out in various places. It has proved to be of good quality, abundant in quantity, easily accessible. One vein is five feet in thickness. The depth of the veins below the surface varies from twenty-five to seventy-five feet. This industry has far outgrown the demands of the township and surrounding country, and the railroad, built by Mr. Cable, finds lucrative employment in conveying to other points the surplus production of this and Richland Grove township mines. This brief sketch but very insufficiently indicates the great resources of the township. Perhaps the best indication of what is in store for its citizens in the future will be a statement of its present wealth, accumulated in less than a half century since the first settler pitched his tent within its limits. The population has increased to 1,410 in 1880. In 1881 the assessed value of lands was \$362,743 ; of town lots, \$1,170 ; of personal property, \$125,164. But this can be hardly more than an earnest of what is yet to be attained here in point of wealth. Besides all this there has grown up a busy village with excellent buildings and enterprising merchants. The first hotel, opened by H. E. Wright in 1854, has given place to the excellent house of Mrs. Robt. Hammond. The business of blacksmith shop of Norton Griffith, established in 1853, the wagon shop, opened by W. C. Gray in 1855, has been augmented by the beautiful drug store of Dr. Jas. H. Seyler,

the extensive general store of Wm. Hammond, Mr. Brigg's grocery, the large mill operated by Mr. Carver, the lumber yard, and the creamery, controlled respectively by J. E. Otto, and D. W. Little. From this list must not be omitted the name of the veteran merchant, Mr. Phillip E. Stevens, successor with Mr. Wright to Messrs. Wharton & Crawford, the first general merchants of the township.

The titles to the lands occupied by the early settlers upon the tract lying between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, upon the security of which depended so largely the prosperity and peace of the settlement, were not established without difficulty and the exercise of much decision and courage on the part of the pioneers. At the time the settlers came the land had not been offered for sale, and there were no preemption or other laws to protect the settlers in their claims and improvements. Two classes of persons sought to take advantage of this to reap profits of the frontiersman's sacrifices and labors,—the claim-jumper and the moneyed speculator. The former sought to obtain a claim upon land already occupied and improved by settling upon it; the latter by bidding against the settlers at the public land sales. This conflict of claims had been the fruitful source of serious difficulties and the occasion of some murders. To prevent any such trouble, the settlers of Preemption and some other townships formed an association for mutual protection. One of their number, Mr. Hopkins Boone, was chosen recorder, and the claim of each settler duly recorded, according to its location on the prairie; each settler, moreover, being limited in the size of his claim to a reasonable amount of land. Previous to the sale of the lands of this township, two claims were "jumped." In both cases the settlers at once sent a committee and ordered the parties to "leave the diggins." They left. The land of Preemption township came into market October 30, 1844, the last of Mercer county to be sold. The fact that prior to this sale the settlers of this township held their homes under the preemption law, gave it its name—Preemption.

For voting purposes, this section belonged to the Richland Grove precinct. It is related that at the presidential election of 1836, the people of this precinct gathered to vote; but vainly had they come, for no one knew who were the electors. Converting their disappointment into a resolve that some one in the settlement must take a newspaper thereafter, they had a neighborly chat and went home. That they were so far neglected by the solicitous politician is most convincing proof of their complete isolation. The first election in the township was held the following year, at Hopkins Boone's residence. The township organization was effected in 1854. The officers elected



at this and the successive elections are given in the following list, furnished by the courtesy of Mr. Thomas L. Johnson, appointed, at the last town meeting, clerk, in place of Mr. R. J. Stewart, during the latter's illness :

Date of Election.	SUPERVISOR.	TOWN CLERK.	COLLECTOR.	ASSESSOR.
1854	David Little.....	J. H. Trego.....	H. E. Wright.....	Samuel Dow.
1855	David Little.....	J. H. Trego.....	H. E. Wright.....	Samuel Dow.
1856	David Little.....	R. W. Kile.....	A. N. Hickok.....	B. F. Fletcher.
1857	John Whitsitt.....	J. W. Fletcher.....	James Connolly.....	B. F. Fletcher.
1858	John Whitsitt.....	P. E. Stevens.....	P. E. Stevens.....	J. S. Mathew.
1859	John Whitsitt.....	J. W. Fletcher.....	James Connolly.....	B. F. Fletcher.
1860	John Whitsitt.....	D. A. Clarke.....	James Connolly.....	B. F. Fletcher.
1861	H. Boone.....	D. A. Clarke.....	James Connolly.....	B. F. Fletcher.
1862	H. E. Wright.....	D. A. Clarke.....	Robert Officer.....	B. F. Fletcher.
1863	J. C. Wright.....	D. A. Clarke.....	James Connolly.....	James Connolly.
1864	J. C. Wright.....	D. A. Clarke.....	James Connolly.....	H. Boone.
1865	A. N. Hickok.....	D. A. Clarke.....	James Connolly.....	W. Bradshaw.
1866	A. N. Hickok.....	D. A. Clarke.....	James Connolly.....	W. Bradshaw.
1867	A. N. Hickok.....	D. A. Clarke.....	Leander Stiles.....	James Connolly.
1868	David Little.....	Wm. Hammond.....	James Connolly.....	Wm. W. Johnston.
1869	David Little.....	Wm. Hammond.....	James Connolly.....	J. Weaver.
1870	Wm. H. Johnston.....	Wm. Hammond.....	James Connolly.....	A. Kendall.
1871	Wm. H. Johnston.....	Wm. Hammond.....	James Connolly.....	A. Kendall.
1872	Wm. H. Johnston.....	Wm. Hammond.....	S. T. Briggs.....	A. Kendall.
1873	Wm. H. Johnston.....	R. J. Stewart.....	Leander Stiles.....	J. Weaver.
1874	Wm. H. Johnston.....	R. J. Stewart.....	Leander Stiles.....	L. D. Willard.
1875	Wm. H. Johnston.....	R. J. Stewart.....	Leander Stiles.....	L. D. Willard.
1876	Wm. H. Johnston.....	R. J. Stewart.....	Leander Stiles.....	J. L. Smith.
1877	Wm. H. Johnston.....	R. J. Stewart.....	S. T. Briggs.....	Leander Stiles.
1878	Wm. H. Johnston.....	R. J. Stewart.....	Leander Stiles.....	Thos. L. Johnston.
1879	Wm. H. Johnston.....	R. J. Stewart.....	Leander Stiles.....	Thos. L. Johnston.
1880	Wm. H. Johnston.....	R. J. Stewart.....	W. H. Johnston.....	Fred Anthony.
1881	S. F. Everett.....	R. J. Stewart.....	George Gray.....	F. W. Rathbon.
1882	S. F. Fverett.....	R. J. Stewart.....	J. H. Dunn.....	F. W. Rathbon.

The life of the pioneer was not undarkened by domestic sorrow, nor unbrightened by domestic joys. The minister of the little settlement early found occasion to share the sorrows and the joys of his neighbors, to offer the consolations of religion to the bereaved, to extend his congratulations and god-speed to those who in marriage had united heart and hand to subdue the wilderness, and make it blossom as the rose.

Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins Boone first claimed the pastor's tender services in the burial in this lonely place of their infant son. They, too, were the first to hail the birth of a child, a daughter, who lived to grow up in the old homestead, to assist her parents in their hardships, and, with Mr. Geddes, to make another home.

With all their hard labors, these pioneers still found time to woo and win the fair daughters of their neighbors. Scarcely the second winter passed since John Farlow built his cabin on the banks of the Edwards river, when (in a figure) the first wedding bells called to the marriage of Susan, daughter of James and Hannah Boone, to Dr. Joseph S. Mans, of Pekin, Illinois. In 1838 another daughter became the helpmeet of Mr. Alfred Perry.

Rapid and absorbing as has been the material development of this township, the claims of religion have not been neglected. Among the first settlers was a Presbyterian minister, Rev. John Montgomery, who became pastor of the first church in the community, organized at Farlow's Grove in 1839, with the following constituent members: Elder John Linn and wife, Elder Robert Stewart, wife and two daughters, Elder Barrows and daughter, Samuel Whan and wife, Mrs. H. Boone, Mr. Black and wife, and others. In 1843, John Montgomery, now deceased, was followed in the pastorate of the church by Thomas S. Vale, a very talented man from Princeton college. He remained until about 1846, when he was succeeded by Rev. L. B. Crittenden, who continued as pastor till about 1850. About this time, Mr. John Whitsitt, who had been ordained as elder in 1845, removed his membership to Rock Island, where his children were at school. In 1867, Mr. Whitsitt's energy procured a church-building on his farm adjoining the village of Preemption. Here in 1868 a church was organized with John Whitsitt, Hugh Livingstone, and James Henry as elders, of whom the latter two were elected and ordained at this time, the first named having been ordained years before at Farlow's Grove. For many years this church flourished, having in its membership a number of the very best citizens of Preemption township. In 1881 an unfortunate controversy arose, which has severely injured the organization. The society now hold services in Hammond's Hall. The church at Farlow's Grove still exists, though less vigorous than in former years. They have no settled pastor but have occasional preaching.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first Methodist society in the township of Preemption was organized in the year 1841, at the house of Mr. Benjamin Clarke, with six members, viz: Benjamin Clarke (leader) and wife, David Little and wife, Andrew Gilmore, and Margaret Gilmore. They held their meetings at this place until 1846, when a house of worship was built, under the following circumstances: Judge Savage, who had been in this section looking after his real estate interests, observing the lack of means for the development of either or both educational and religious interests, and believing, as do all intelligent men, that through these mediums only come true prosperity and the successful building up of a new country, he deposited in Rock Island \$50 to be used in building a house for church and school purposes. This fact Mr. Savage communicated to John Whitsitt, who soon after conferred with Mr. C. A. Spring, an agent of the American Sunday School Union of



New York, who was then here in the interest of that society. Through Mr. Spring's influence Mr. Lemuel Brewster, a benevolent gentleman in New York, was induced to build three houses here, one at Farlow's Grove in section 34, one at Preemption Corners in section 11, and one in Rock Island county; the \$50 donated by Judge Savage was finally used in improving and fencing the Union cemetery at Farlow's Grove. In this house at Preemption the Methodists worshiped until they erected their present commodious church edifice on the southwest corner of David Little's farm in section 2, adjoining the village of Preemption, in 1867. The old building is still (and may it for many years to come) standing as a memorial to the memory of its benevolent builder.

The perusal of the following pages will be the evidence of how the All-wise Ruler of all things crowned these early, yet feeble, efforts with success. Reverting in the history of the Methodist Episcopal church to 1865, we find it in charge of Rev. Amos Morey as pastor, with 101 members and fourteen probationers. Rev. Mr. Morey filled this position up to 1868, when he reported three preaching places, 123 members and nineteen probationers, a church worth \$3,000, and a comfortable parsonage. The pastors succeeding him were: M. P. Armstrong, W. M. Sedore, and J. E. Rutledge (each one year), J. Q. Adams (three years), Thomas Watson (two years), Charles Atherton (two years), who was assisted in his last year by Frank Doran. At the close of the conference year of 1878, the charge was divided, Reynolds taking all the other appointments, leaving Preemption alone, tacitly a station without any outside appointments, ninety-six members and three church buildings going to the Reynolds circuit, while fifty-nine members, one church and the parsonage were left with Preemption.

In 1879 Rev. Thomas Watson was for the second time appointed to this charge. He died the May following, and his time was filled out by W. C. Knapp and the Rev. B. C. Dennis. In 1880 brother B. C. Dennis became pastor in charge, retaining the same three years, which is the full extent of time allowed by the conference on one charge. During the broken year above referred to no change numerically was made, but during the last three years of Brother Dennis' labors the membership has grown from fifty-nine to eighty-six.

The Sunday school is in a specially flourishing condition, and at the present time (1882) larger than any ever before held in the township. The charge is one of the best patrons, per member, of the missionary and other benevolent societies of any church in the bounds of the conference, if not of the state. Their missionary collections for the year 1881 were \$3,000, and during the last two years the benevo-

lent collections of the charge have averaged considerably over \$11 per member, while home expenses are all paid up promptly in advance, all of which grows out of the fact that a few of the leading liberal and wealthy men in the community appreciate the value of the church and the benefits of its benign influence.

Of the church history from 1845 to 1865 nothing authentic could be obtained, as there are no records earlier than the latter date, and the only party now living who could give any reliable information stubbornly refused to do so.

#### ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Quite early in the history of Preemption township, the Conways, Odays, Brenens, and a few others of the Catholic faith, settled in and around the southeast part of the township, and to them occasionally priests from Rock Island would come and minister, holding meetings at the cabins of the early settlers. This was continued up to 1875, when steps were taken to build a church, which was soon accomplished. On January 23, 1875, a subscription was drawn up by Daniel Mack, who subscribed \$100. This was followed by several other \$100 subscriptions. The Macks, the Conways, the McManises, the Dooleys, and the Lucuses, leading. Many of what might be termed outsiders and members of other churches also lent a helping hand to the enterprise; foremost among whom was William W. Johnston, who donated twenty-five dollars. On January 30, 1875, the contract to build a church, in size 30×42, of good material, with stone foundation, was let to Mathias Schnell, who completed the work the following July.

On September 9, 1875, the church was dedicated by Rev. Father I. P. Rowles. The edifice cost \$1,600, which was promptly paid. In 1878 a vestry, 12×14 feet was added, at a cost of \$166. The building now presents a neat and substantial appearance, and the interior outfit and finish would do credit to an older and wealthier congregation. They now have a membership of about thirty families, and have services every alternate Sabbath. Their pastor is a resident of Keithsburg, and as both this and the Keithsburg church are one charge, reference may be had to the history of that church for the names of the past and present officiating priests. This, like all other Catholic church property, is vested in their bishop.

#### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal church who performed mission labor in Preemption township, was Rev. Jacob S. Chamberlain, who was called in the month of December to minister to



the spiritual wants of Mrs. Rachel Johnston, the wife of Joseph Johnston, Jr., who was at the time on her death bed. This was his introduction as missionary in this field. Early in the spring of 1868, Rev. Chamberlain commenced active missionary work, which resulted in 1869 in the erection of the present church building on land deeded by Robert Foster and wife to James Johnston, William Johnston, Thomas Armstrong, and Thomas Doonan, trustees, and described as a part of Sec. 4, T. 15, R. 2 W., bearing date of June 1, 1869; consideration \$100. Rev. Chamberlain closed his labors in this field, as missionary, in August, 1871.

In October, 1872. Rev. Wm. Thomas Currie was appointed missionary in the same field, and continued his labors until October 1, 1875. On September 6, 1874, permission was obtained from the standing committee of the diocese of Illinois to organize a parish, and on October 19, 1874, a meeting was held in the church, a parish organized, and officers duly elected, consisting of wardens and vestrymen, as follows: William H. Johnston, John Manes, and Thomas Doonan, wardens; Thomas L. Johnston, George Clark, and Robert Hix, vestrymen. The organization to be known as St. John's Parish, of Preemption, Illinois. Shortly after the termination of the labors of Rev. Mr. Currie, as missionary, the Rev. T. M. Thorp was called to the rectorship of the parish, but resigned in the spring of 1877. Rev. N. P. Charlot was elected as the rector by the wardens and vestrymen in May, 1877, and entered upon his duties as such July 1, 1877, and resigned, after a labor of five years, on July 1, 1882. The present membership is small, and but little interest seems to be manifested by them in matters pertaining to religion.

#### MASONIC.

Preemption Lodge, No. 755, A.F.A.M., was organized June 27, 1877, under dispensation, and so held meetings till October 21 of the same year, when they received their charter from the grand lodge. The charter members were W. C. Gray, Henry H. Hayford, James H. Seyler, H. H. Hammond, Wm. Steinhauer, Geo. Bartlett, B. W. Thompson, J. B. Harris, jr., Wm. H. Hickock, Samuel Bailey, S. F. Everett, Geo. C. Gray, Leander Stiles, John Weiler.

The following officers were appointed under dispensation and elected when organized and chartered: Wm. C. Gray, W.M.; James H. Seyler, S.W.; Joseph B. Harris, J.W.; B. W. Thompson, S.D.; Samuel Bailey, J.D.; S. E. Everett, Treasurer; H. H. Hayford, Secretary; H. H. Hammond, Tyler; Geo. C. Gray and John Weiler, Stewards. They now have a membership of twenty-six, with seven on

the way to full membership. The lodge is in a flourishing condition, with the present board of officers: James H. Seyler, W.M.; W. J. Armstrong, S.W.; H. H. Hammond, J.W.; Wm. Steinhauer, Treasurer; W. W. Hickock, Secretary. Regular meetings are held on Friday evenings on or before full moon in each month. They have lost one member by death, Bro. Geo. Bartlett, who died in Kansas in 1881.

#### ORANGEMEN.

Preemption Loyal Orange Lodge No. 132, was organized July 3, 1876, by Matthew Mayne, of Chicago, with the following charter members: James Connelly, W.M.; Thomas Doonan, Deputy W.M.; Wm. Holden, Secretary; John Holden, Treasurer; Wm. Wilson, Chaplain; Thomas Wilson, Tyler; and Thomas J. Armstrong, James Gawley, James F. Johnston, Robert Wadsworth, George Wadsworth, John Wadsworth, James R. Doonan, James Allwell, John H. Johnston: in all fifteen. There is now a membership of forty.

The first year they held their meetings in the school-house of district No. 2, after which they built a hall on the farm of Joseph B. Johnston, about two miles west of the village of Preemption. D. W. Little is the present secretary. Their established holiday is on the twelfth of July, when they meet, as is to them a time honored custom, and with singing, speaking and martial music commemorate the day when protestantism gained the ascendancy in Ireland at the battle of the Boyne in 1690.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first school was taught at Farlow's Grove by Miss Boone, and the second at Preemption corner, on section 11, in the house built by Mr. Brewster, spoken of in connection with the Methodist Episcopal church history. At the present writing there are a goodly number of well patronized schools in the township. The houses are neatly built and present a very attractive appearance to the traveler as he turns at many of the section corners or cross roads.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

In closing this brief sketch, some little mention must be made of the few noble men who were to some extent the founders of this flourishing section. John Farlow remained here but a short time when he sold his claim to James Boone, made a short move, died a few years later, and his family went, in 1847, with the Millers, to Oregon, where they still reside. James Boone died here in 1842, and his faithful wife in 1858. Hopkins Boone enjoys the prosperity his early sacrifices merit, living in his comfortable home in the village of Viola. A



fuller account of this worthy gentleman will be found in the history of that place. Rev. Joseph Jones died here some years after his settlement. A daughter of his, now Mrs. Joseph Pitman, still resides here. Benjamin Clarke died here in 1844, and his family still reside on the farm first entered. David Little, now the largest land owner in the township, if not in the county, is still living on his first purchase. He was born in county Fermanagh, Ireland, in 1815, and came to America in 1834, and started without means except a pair of willing hands and a determined will. In addition to the accumulation of a large amount of property, he has reared a very interesting and prosperous family of eight children, five only of whom are now living. His oldest son, William F., was killed at the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, during the late war. Of Charles Minick, and John Bierbeau, nothing was ascertained. Among the successful and hardy pionners may be mentioned Mr. J. Conway, who settled and now owns a large farm in the southwest part of the township. W. W. Johnston also came in an early day, and has since become one of the large real estate owners not only in this township, but also in Rock Island county. Wm. H. Johnston, too, will be remembered as among the industrious and enterprising farmers of Preemption township and for many years its supervisor. He was born in county Fermanagh, Ireland, in 1819, came to this township in 1848, and settled on section 16, where he now resides. Among the more public spirited and push-a-head men who came in an early day to this township, may be mentioned Mr. John Whitsitt. He settled here on section 2, in 1844, and has devoted much of his time to improving and beautifying his home. He has, for a number of years, been turning his attention to breeding thoroughbred short horned cattle. Judge Wm. Wilmerton, whose name has been so familiar to his fellow citizens since his coming, in 1842, enjoys the honor and respect his straightforward course has merited. A full biography of him will be found in its proper place.

In closing, we desire to mention also some of the fine farms and residences which characterize the township. First among these we mention the beautiful home of Mr. Samuel F. Everett, who came from Ohio in 1852, and entered lands in sections 18 and 20. His house was erected at a cost of \$6,000, and is acknowledged the finest in the township, and among the finest in the county. Less costly, but very elegant, are the residences of Judge Wilmerton, George Smith, John Y. Johnson, Thomas L. Johnson, D. W. Little. That so many residences are worthy of special mention leaves no room for further comment, or prophecy as to its future prosperity.

WILLIAM WILMERTON is an example of those men who stand out as

landmarks to rising young men to direct and invite to success, even though life begin in most straitened circumstances. Many a poor boy has worn the honors, civic or financial, ere gray hairs counted his allotted years. William Wilmerton was born May 1, 1822, in New Jersey. He is the son of Fenimore and Permila (Van Kirk) Wilmer-ton. His father was a cousin to the celebrated American author, J. Fenimore Cooper, founder of Cooperstown. His father died soon after his (William's) birth, so that the boy was left to the cold graces of the world. At the age of six years he found a home with a Quaker family, with whom he remained till quite able to support himself. He then became a common laborer at whatever might offer, applying his earnings to the acquirement of an education. He attended college some years, gaining a good fund of general information. In the summer of 1842 he made his way to Preemption township, Mercer county, Illinois. The first summer he spent in prospecting for a location suitable to general purposes. He taught school the first winter. He bought a surveyor's outfit and engaged in surveying for some time. His first purchase was eighty acres of land, necessitating the expenditure of all he had. He was elected justice of the peace in 1846, which office he filled for over twenty years, doing a very extensive business. His business was largely making collections. This was before the days of so many banks. He was trusted by everybody and performed his business with satisfaction to all. He also served four years as judge. He has accumulated his savings and his earnings till he now owns more than 1,000 acres of land, a mark of his unusual success. Just subsequent to the war he was commissioned an attorney, that he might prosecute soldiers' claims without the certificate of a regular attorney living at a distance. Mr. Wilmerton was married December 10, 1850, to Miss Rhoda A. Kelsey, a native of New York state. They have three children: Louisa (wife of N. J. McDonald, of Davenport, Iowa), Frank (real estate agent in La Mars, Iowa), and William W. (at home). Prior to the war Mr. Wilmerton was democratic in politics; since that time he has voted independently.

The family of JOHN WHITSITT originated in Scotland, but his more recent ancestors were natives of Ireland. His father was Benjamin Whitsitt of county Fermanagh, in the province of Ulster. His mother's maiden name was Sarah Fitzgerald. He was a land proprietor, and also engaged in mercantile and milling business. There were eleven children, of whom only now are living the subject of this sketch and his sister, Margaret J. (married to Mr. J. C. Morehead), in Ireland. In 1871, his father died at the age of eighty-four years, and his mother many years previous, when forty-eight years of age. A



second wife still survives the eldest Mr. Whitsitt in the country of their birth. Mr. John Whitsitt, the second son, fourth child, was born in Rosslea, Fermanagh county, Ireland, June, 7, 1816. He was reared with good advantages of education for business purposes, and also made familiar with farming and stock raising. He was married August 12, 1836, to Miss Eliza Henrey, a native of Monaghan county, Ireland, and of Scotch ancestry. In 1844 Mr. Whitsitt and family sailed from Liverpool for New Orleans, where they arrived after a forty-three days' passage, and from that place by river to St. Louis and thence to Rock Island. He selected land in section 3, Preemption township, and bought the claim of Ezekiel Morey, and entered the same at the land office in Dixon. All the rest of his present premises of 600 acres, he bought, excepting forty, at various prices from time to time. The dairy business first occupied them, and their product was carried to Rock Island and shipped to Galena, then crowded with miners and abounding with wealth. When help was absent Mr. Whitsitt and wife have milked twenty cows per day, and it is not surprising that the energy and prudence thus exhibited brought wealth and comfort in their train. Their brand of butter always commanded the highest market price, and their commission merchants, Messrs. Campbell & Smith, were always anxious to handle their article. In the course of ten years Mr. Whitsitt began to make a specialty of handling blooded cattle, and he was one of the first in this region to appreciate the importance of this interest. He brought on his farm some choice selections from Mr. Alexander's celebrated Kentucky herds. He has disposed of many fine cattle at private and public sale, and has at present some whose pedigrees are traced back to imported stock and entered in the American Herd Book, Vol. XIII. In 1875 he had on his place two-year old and coming three, cattle that weighed 1,600 lbs. and upward. Misses Elizabeth and Sarah, his two daughters, are living with their parents in their happy home near the village of Preemption. A son, Benjamin, the oldest, who is married to Miss Elizabeth Bitty, is living near them on a part of the original home farm, and another son, Richard H. (married to Miss Henrietta Fitzgerald), also lives upon a portion of his father's place. Both sons have had a due appointment from their father upon their outstart in life. There were two children additional to the above named born to Mr. and Mrs. Whitsitt, now deceased; one was an infant, Robert, and the other a daughter, Mary Ann, who died in Illinois in her fourteenth year, and whose funeral-mound grows green beneath the orchard trees of her early home. Mr. Whitsitt has never been a politician, but has always held decided views upon the leading questions of the day. He was not



S. F. EVERETT.





a republican, but when the question of supporting the administration of his adopted country came up against the other issues of rebellion, Mr. W. was on the side of the union with his money and influence to assist in filling up the quota of the township. His personal integrity and worth were always recognized by his neighbors, so that for four terms he was returned as supervisor of his township when the party with which he was identified was always in a two-thirds minority. With Mrs. Whitsitt, who has always been a devoted wife and mother, and partner in all the plans and purposes of his life, he visited the home and the scenes of her early years. Mr. Whitsitt's affections and duty are fully given to the country of his adoption. They are connected with the Presbyterian church, that stands on land donated by Mr. Whitsitt upon a corner of his farm.

SAMUEL F. EVERETT was born in Marion county, Ohio, February 12, 1834. He is the son of Samuel F. and Sarah (Karr) Everett. His father was a native of Vermont, of Scotch and Irish ancestry, while his mother was born in Meigs county, Ohio. He was reared on a farm where he enjoyed the advantages of good schools, finishing his education with a course at the Marion academy. In the spring of 1852 he came on a prospecting tour to Illinois. Liking the land, and other advantages being equal, he entered a half section in sections 18 and 20, Preemption township, Mercer county, and returned to Ohio. In the fall of the same year, in company with his mother, sister and sister's husband, G. D. Miller, he came by team to the new home. After his arrival here he at once began to make and improve his home, which is now one of the most pleasant in this part of Mercer county, having, in 1880, built a very fine and beautiful residence, at a cost of about \$6,000. His real estate comprises 550 acres. June 4, 1872, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah E. McHard, a daughter of William and Mary McHard. She was born in Mercer county, Illinois, January 5, 1840, and is one among the first born here now living. They are the parents of two children, William R., and Sarah R. Mr. Everett's father died in Ohio about 1842, and his mother died at his home in this township in the winter of 1868. Mr. Everett is now actively engaged in farming and stock raising. He is now filling his second term of supervisor.

As a man who not only merits but enjoys the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens, DAVID ANDREW CLARKE occupies no second place. He was born October 24, 1835, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where his parents were married October 31, 1834. In 1838 they came to Mercer county, Illinois, and permanently located on Sec. 1, T. 15, R. 2, Preemption, and there Mr. Clarke, David's father, died in 1844.



leaving, besides his wife who still survives, five children, three of whom are living: David A., Maggie, and Mary (wife of Henry Ketzel, of Perryton township). Those deceased were: Jane (who died in 1866), Henry B. (died in New Orleans aged twenty years, during the late war, a victim of the malarial fevers of a southern clime). David A. now owns and occupies the old home farm of 360 acres, and is actively engaged in stock raising and farming. He served the township eight years as clerk, and in 1876 was elected justice of the peace, which trust and honor he still holds. He is also a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and contributes largely of his means for its support and prosperity. Himself and mother have been longer residents in the township than any others now living within its borders. His father, Benjamin Clarke, was born in the county Fermanagh, Ireland, in 1802, and was reared a farmer, following that vocation through life. His mother was also a native of Ireland. Mr. Clarke was married in 1864 to Sarah Ellen Little, daughter of David Little. She died in 1865, and he has not since married.

JESSE CARVER. In the colony founded by William Penn in 1682 were three brothers by the name of Carver. One of these (John Carver) settled in that part afterward set off as Bucks county, Pennsylvania. He became prominent in the colonial history of Pennsylvania. Jesse Carver, the subject of these lines, is the son of John Carver and the grandson of John Carver, and a descendant of the John Carver above noted. The Carvers were, of course, Quakers or Friends in early days. Jesse Carver was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, January 29, 1816. His education was limited to the common school of his day. Farming has been his avocation all his years, having been sufficiently successful to save a competency for old age. He was married August 23, 1838, to Miss Sarah W. Lewis. She was born March 10, 1810, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. She is connected with the Elicott family, thoroughly written up in a book set apart to that family alone. After marriage Mr. Carver rented a farm near Buckingham, Pennsylvania. In 1851 he emigrated westward, settling in Preemption township, Mercer county, Illinois, where he entered land in section 14. In the following year he built and soon moved into his own house, a consummation sought for many years. No longer a tenant but a lord. He has added to his first purchase till he owns over 360 acres of good land. He has eight children: Watson T., Letitia L. (now Mrs. Jackson Thornton of Millersburg), Readding L., Thomas E., Edward W., Winfield S., John M., and Marietta (wife of Harvey T. Trovillo).

READDING L. CARVER was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania,

March 6, 1843. He has spent the larger part of his life in Mercer county. He enlisted in Co. C, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., August, 1862. He carried the colors through the war to the restoration of peace. He was wounded at Resacca, Georgia, having three teeth shot out and his mouth badly shattered. His career is the career of the 102d regiment. At his return he resumed farming, but soon engaged in the manufacture of sorghum. In 1877, at the solicitation of many of his friends, he was induced to embark in the milling business, and he began building in that year in Preemption. His mill has grown from incipency to flour and feed mill, general machine and repair shops, and grain elevator. Mr. Carver was married June 19, 1872, to Mrs. Jane Geiger, a native of Ohio and daughter of William David. They have five children: William D., Laura, Emma O., James R., and Jesse.

Prominent among the early settlers, and members of the Catholic church, may be mentioned Mr. JOSEPH CONWAY, who was born in county Clare, Ireland, in 1826. He was reared to the principles of economy and industry. He emigrated to America in the summer of 1846. He sailed from Limerick June 25 in the sailing ship Emma, and after a voyage of many weeks landed in Oswego August 20. For the following six years he applied himself to any honorable employment which would turn an honest penny. In the fall of 1852 he came to Rock Island, Illinois, and the following February put his axe on his shoulder and walked to Preemption township, and began to improve the land he had entered. The following June he received the patent for his land, signed by President Pierce. July 10, 1854, he was united in marriage with Miss Bridget Ayers, a native of Ireland. She died January 6, 1870, at the early age of thirty-nine years, leaving, besides her loving husband, six children to mourn her early death. The children's names, in the order of their birth, are: Thomas, Margnretta, Joseph Patrick, Mary A., Lizzie (deceased), and Martin W. Mr. Conway, since the death of his companion, has remained single. His estimable daughter is his housekeeper, and cheers his home by her pleasant and affable manner. When Mr. Conway first settled on section 30 in this township he had but \$200; money earned in this country, and when he landed at Oswego, New York, he had but one-quarter of a dollar. But honest industry has its reward, and he has long since been the independent owner of 680 acres of land.

JOHN Y. JOHNSTON (deceased), came from the county Fermanagh, Ireland, to Mercer county, Illinois, in the spring of 1864, bringing with him his wife, Mary, and two children, one of whom was born to them while on the way. They permanently located in Preemption



township, on Sec. 9, T. 15, R. 2, where they reared a family of six children. Mr. Johnston died in January, 1870, and Mrs. Johnston August 6, 1866. James Y. Johnston, their second child, was born on the Mississippi river in April, 1846, while on their way from New Orleans to Rock Island. He was reared on the farm and educated in the common schools. July 3, 1871, he was married to Miss Matilda, daughter of John H. and Jane (Welch) Johnston. She was born in Preemption township, October 22, 1852. They are the parents of three children, whose names, in the order of their birth, are Nina A., Henry A., and Mary J. Mr. Johnston now owns and occupies the old home farm and other land adjoining, to the number of 236 acres, and is engaged in farming and stock raising.

JOHN Y. JOHNSTON is a son of William W. and Margaret (Lipton) Johnston, and was born in this township, April 1, 1857. He was reared on the farm and educated in the common schools, with the additional advantage of a college course at Abingdon, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa. March 10, 1881, he was married to Miss Rebecca Johnston, the daughter of William H. and Jane (Allen) Johnston; she was born in this township, February 7, 1859. In 1881 Mr. Johnston built his present fine residence on his farm on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 18. His father is now living near Reynolds, in the northwest part of Preemption township, and is one of the wealthy land owners of this county, after having given to each of his sons a good farm.

THOMAS L. JOHNSTON, farmer and stock raiser, is a son of William W. and Margaret (Lipton) Johnston, and was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, November 16, 1848. With the exception of from 1852 to 1855, with his parents in California, his years have been spent in Preemption township, actively engaged in farming. His educational advantages were good and well improved. He remained at home with his father until about the age of twenty-six years, and was well rewarded by the gift from his father of a good 160 acre farm; the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 7, on which, in 1880, he built a fine, two-story residence at a cost of over \$3,000. July 1, 1874, he was married to Miss Mary J. Goodner, a daughter of William D. and Edith J. (Griswold) Goodner. She was born in Indiana, August 7, 1850, and came with her parents to Mercer county, in 1853. They are the parents of four children: Edward W., Edith E., Maggie B., and an infant. Mr. Johnston is engaged in farming, but devotes much of his time to buying, feeding and shipping stock.

WILLIAM CONNOLLY is a son of James and Elizabeth (Little) Connolly, and was born in the county Fermanagh, Ireland, May 29, 1832. In November, 1846, with his parents, he left the land of his

birth, and sailing for America, landed in New Orleans early in the winter of 1847. Soon after their arrival in New Orleans they started up the Mississippi river, landing at Rock Island on April 4th of the same year. They soon after purchased land in Sec. 3, T. 15, R. 2 W., in Preemption township, where our subject still lives, and where his parents lived till the time of their death. The father died in September, 1881, aged eighty-two years. He was an enthusiastic Orangeman, and through his instrumentality a lodge of that order was organized at Preemption, in this county, and one at Brooklyn, Iowa. In the workings of these organizations he used largely of his means, having twice visited Canada in the interest of the order. The mother died in 1869 at the age of seventy-eight years. They were the parents of seven children: Mary (now the wife of Dr. Martin), James, Margaret (now Mrs. William Vye), William (the subject of this notice), Jane (wife of Thomas Burchby), Eliza (wife of Frank Johnston), and Sarah A. (wife of William J. Ransom). William was married February 14, 1861, to Miss Elizabeth A. Moffett, a native of Fermanagh county, Ireland. She died in 1873. Mr. Connolly's second marriage was on November 12, 1874, with Miss Fanny Moffett, who was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, April 24, 1849. He is the father of eight children, whose names in the order of their birth are: James W., William F., Elizabeth, Robert, and Lucinda, by his first wife, and Edward W., Mary A., and Gilbert H., by his present wife, who is an excellent mother to the whole family. Mr. Connolly is taking great interest in the education of his children.

DAVID W. LITTLE, the thrifty and enterprising proprietor of the Preemption creamery, is a son of David and Elizabeth (Wiltshire) Little, and was born in this township March 28, 1851. He received a good common school education while growing up on the farm, to which he added several terms at Abingdon, Illinois, and Mount Vernon, Iowa. He was married December 18, 1874, to Miss Clara E. Goudy, daughter of William H. and Margaret (Smith) Goudy, of Mount Vernon, Iowa. She was born in Linn county, Iowa, April 5, 1853. They are the parents of four children: William H., Elizabeth E., Benjamin F., and Margaret A. After his marriage Mr. Little engaged in farming, but since 1880 he has turned his attention exclusively to the manufacture of butter. The prospect of success in 1882 induced him to establish a branch creamery in Rivoli township, and he has extended the buying of cream into the adjoining counties.

WILLIAM BRIGGS, the subject of this sketch, was born about 1807 in Ireland, where he spent his early life. When at the age of twenty-five he came to America, in company with his brother Thomas. They



first landed on the British Islands, in Canada. They stayed there two months, and then went to New York, where he followed teaming and weaving. He next moved to Illinois in 1846, first stopping at Rock Island; from there he moved to Swedonia, where he found employment at fifty cents per day for ten years. In the meanwhile he bought a small piece of land; but not having a team of his own, he was forced to hire one, for which he gave his own labor in exchange for the use of a horse. He bought his first eighty acres of Levi Wasson and paid for it in trade. He next bought some government land from a man who had entered it. He was married in New York in 1834 to Miss Isabella Clay. By this marriage they had five children born to them, one only of whom was born in Illinois. John, the oldest, married Miss Ann Armstrong, who is deceased. He was married a second time to Lena Colter. They have one child living and one dead. Henry married Miss Vina Smith, and they have one child. In Mr. Briggs' father's family there were five boys and three girls, all of whom were born in Ireland: Margaret, John, Richard, Jane, Mary, Murphy, Thomas and Robert. Margaret is deceased; John lives in New York; Richard died at Pleasant Hill; Jane, wife of David Bates, resides in Ireland; Mary married John Murphy; Robert married in New York. When the war of the rebellion broke out Mr. Briggs furnished two soldiers from his family. Robert entered the service as a private and was promoted second lieutenant, and, at the time of his discharge, a captain's commission was forwarded by the governor. He was a brave officer, and was with his regiment through all the various battles with the western army, and was wounded at the battle of Lexington. He was a member of Co. B, 65th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. Thomas, a merchant of Preemption, was a member of the 140th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., commanded by Col. Sherman. He entered the service in 1864 at Dixon. After his return home he met with an accident, a misfortune which necessitated the amputation of his arm. Mr. and Mrs. Briggs are members of the Episcopal church, of Preemption.

POTTER KELLY, son of Samuel and Sarah Kelly, was born in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, in 1843. He attended a common school until sixteen years of age, when he began a course of study in Glade Run Academy, in Armstrong county. After attending here two sessions he began teaching. In the summer of 1866 he came west to Jackson county, Iowa, where he taught one year. In the spring of 1867 he came to Mercer county, Illinois, and began teaching one mile south of Bridger's Corners, in Suez township. Since that time Mr. Kelly has pursued the profession of teaching in that and adjoining townships in Mercer county, and his labors have always been attended by success.

PETER CAMERON was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, December 28, 1829. In his father's family there were nine children, of whom our subject is the sixth child. His father was married about 1819 to Miss Sarah Jones, a native of Pennsylvania, whose father came from Wales in an early day and settled in that state. His father, John Cameron, was born of Scotch parents, on the highlands of Scotland. He came to Pennsylvania and settled near the Juniata river, where he died. Mr. Cameron came to Illinois in 1850, in company with a brother and sister. They first settled in Ohio Grove township, near the line between Ohio Grove and Abington, where he entered a piece of government land containing a quarter section. Before his removal to this state he followed milling and worked with his father. Our subject was married in Pennsylvania, February 26, 1861, to Miss Margaret E. Crabtree, whose parents had moved to Illinois a short time prior to Mr. Cameron's arrival here. By this union they have had four children born to them as follows: Malinda (wife of Frank Humpstead, of DeKalb county), Lewis E., born January 25, 1866, George M., born September 29, 1868, Clarence F., born November 2, 1872. When the war broke out Mr. Cameron entered the service and was engaged in all the battles with his regiment, from Chattanooga to Hardeeville, (South Carolina), and was wounded at Resacca, May 15, 1864. Mrs. Cameron's parents on her father's side, were of English descent, and on her mother's side, Irish. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron are both members of the Methodist church.

ROBERT HICKS was born in Ireland, May 24, 1817, and came to America in 1844. He landed in New York and from there went to Buffalo, Chicago, and Canada, and finally to Galena, where he found employment in the mines in the winter, and in the summer worked upon a farm. Being industrious and saving, he laid up a part of his earnings and in 1856 invested in 160 acres of raw prairie land. He at once began to improve the same, to accomplish which he was forced to borrow money, for which he paid fifteen per cent interest. Mr. Hicks is a prominent member of the Protestant Episcopal church.

JULIUS E. OTTO was born in Berlin, Prussia, June 16, 1847. His early youth was partly spent on a farm, but before his majority he had learned the trade of shoemaker with his father. In 1866 he left the home of his birth and sailed for America, with a view of securing a home in a land of plenty. After his arrival he engaged as a hand in a brick-yard, at Whitewater, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1868, when he removed to Davenport, Iowa, and there and in Rock Island worked in a lumber-yard till November, 1878. Then he came to Preemption to take charge of the station on the Rock Island & Mercer



County railroad. Here he is also engaged in selling lumber on commission. October 4, 1870, he married Miss Philepene Ehrhard, a daughter of John Ehrhard. She is a native of Rhein Baiern, Germany. She came to America in the fall of 1868, landing here January 1, 1867. They have four children, August H., Ludwig L., Amelia T., and Edward J. They are members of the Lutheran church, of Rock Island.

Among the leading physicians of Mercer county may be mentioned Dr. JAMES H. SEYLER. He was born in central Pennsylvania, January 6, 1842. His early years were spent on the farm and in the common schools, beginning at the age of sixteen to attend the higher grade of schools. In his seventeenth year he entered the academy at Glade Run, remaining nearly four years. He then became a student at Jefferson literary college, in the State of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with the class of 1865, receiving his diploma from the united Washington and Jefferson college. He then began reading medicine with Dr. Scott, of Cleveland, Ohio. He also attended medical lectures at Cleveland. He finally entered the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he received his degree of M.D., in 1868. After practicing his profession one year at Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania, he removed to Mercer county, Illinois, and permanently located at Preemption, where he has established an enviable reputation as a successful physician. In 1881 he erected a fine brick building which he occupies as a drug store. In November, 1874, he was married to Miss Lauretta Criswell, daughter of Matthew Criswell, Esq., a native of Pennsylvania, but at that time a resident of Rock Island county. One child, Sarah F., was born to them in 1876. Dr. Seyler is a prominent member of the masonic fraternity, and he and wife are active members of the Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM HAMMOND is a son of Robert and Margery (Bird) Hammond, and was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, June 3, 1839. His early youth was spent on a farm where he received a good common school education, which he finished with two years at Westminster college. In August, 1861, he enlisted in the Co. B, 100th Pa. Vol. Inf., as first lieutenant, from which he was promoted to captain. He participated in the following battles: Port Royal and Port Royal ferry, S. C.; James Island, Bull Run and Chantilla, Va.; South Mountain and Antietam, Md.; Fredericksburg, Va.; Vicksburg and Jackson, Miss.; Blue Springs, Campbell's Stations and siege of Knoxville, Tenn; the battles of the wilderness, Spotsylvania, Spotsylvania court-house, North Ann river, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Va.; and Mine explosion. At the latter place he was wounded for the third time during the service, and

was sent to Georgetown hospital, D. C., from which he was finally discharged. After the restoration of peace and his return home, he spent some time in prospecting in several states, for a suitable place to settle, and in 1866 came to Preemption. He was at once impressed with the beauty of the country, and settled in Preemption, and for a short time engaged in the drug business but soon run into a general store, selling out the drug department. In 1877 he built his present fine brick store, where he is now engaged in a prosperous trade. March 12, 1867, he was united in marriage with Miss Olive M. Morey, a daughter of Ezekiel and Esther (Underhill) Morey, who were among the early pioneers of this county. She was born in Preemption township, March 11, 1844. They have one child living, Will D.; Bird U. died November 24, 1878, aged over four years. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond are prominent members of the Presbyterian church.

GEORGE SMITH is a son of Thomas and Mary (Potts) Smith. He was born in Ireland, July 2, 1827. In 1846, his parents, with their nine children, came to America, sailing from Belfast in the ship *Annie*. They first settled in Bytown, now Ottawa, Canada, where they remained six years. They then removed farther west in Canada, and settled in the county of Bruce, west of Toronto, where the parents remained until the time of their death. George, the subject of this sketch, was the third son. He was reared like his father, a farmer, at the same time receiving a good, common school education, as well as early training in the way of thrift and industry. November 3, 1858, he was united in marriage with Miss Jane Wadsworth, daughter of John and Jane (Johnston) Wadsworth. She was born February 11, 1836, in the county Fermanagh, Ireland, and came with her parents to the United States in 1847. They are the parents of an interesting family of eleven children, whose names, in the order of their birth, are: Emma J. (wife of Thomas Johnston, of Rock Island county), William J., Caroline V., Mary E., George A., Sarah E., Jemima K., Angeline M., Harriett E., Charles E., and Losada L. After his marriage Mr. Smith engaged in farming till 1865, when he sold his Canadian home and removed to Mercer county, settling in Preemption township, on section 16. For his first eighty acres he paid \$2,000, for his second he paid \$4,500, and for his last forty acres, bought in 1882, he paid \$3,000. Mr. Smith is now (1882) actively engaged in stock-raising and farming. The raising of pork for market has been with him a decided success. Himself and his estimable wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

DANIEL MACK is a son of John and Bridget (Conway) Mack, and was born in county Clare, Ireland, in May 1849. His father died, and,



early in the spring of 1853, he, with his mother and her family, set sail for America in the sailing ship *Mary Pleasant*, and all safely landed in Philadelphia on May 10, 1853. In the spring of 1855 they removed to Rock Island, Illinois, where our subject spent the next four and a half years clerking in a hotel and working at other odd jobs from which he could earn an honest penny, at the same time making the best use he could of all spare time in securing an education. Though he did not have the advantage of a college course of instruction, he is one of those practical, self-made men occasionally found among the emigrants to this county who were by poverty thrown upon their own resources. After coming to Preemption township, in 1859, he engaged in breaking prairie, and became known as Dan. Mack, the prairie breaker. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Co. H, 84th Ill. Vol. Inf., and served his adopted country until the close of the war. While in the service he was wounded at Chickamauga, September 19, 1853. January 1, 1866, he was married to Miss Catharine Oday, a daughter of John and Margaret (Burk) Oday, who is also a native of Ireland, and came to America in about 1860. They are the parents of seven children, living: John W., Daniel, Thomas F., Elizabeth, William, James P., Joseph C., and three deceased. Though Mr. Mack began a poor boy, he is now the independent owner of 510 acres of land in this township, and is actively engaged in stock raising and shipping as well as farming.

ROBERT FOSTER is a son of Robert and Margaret (Nickson) Foster. He was born in the county Fermanagh, Ireland, in 1820, and was reared on a farm, at the same time receiving a good education. On March 17, 1845, with his brother John and others of his father's family he left his native home for America, and about May 1 of the same year arrived at Rock Island, Illinois. The first summer was spent by him working in a brick-yard at Rock Island, while John worked the first season in Preemption township for John Whitsitt, Esq. Thus they made their start "slow but sure." The brothers finally purchased land in section 3, in Preemption township, where Robert still lives, and where John lived till the time of his death, December 30, 1881, in the seventieth year of his age. He was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which he gave liberally of his means, making it a point to give annually fifty dollars toward the support of the church of which he was a member. Some years before his death he gave a house and lot in Rock Island to the Methodist Episcopal Church there to be used as a parsonage, and a short time previous to his death he willed to the missionary society of Rock Island property to the value of \$2,000, the proceeds of which is to be

used in foreign missionary work, and during the last year of his life he contributed in cash \$100 to the missionary fund. In 1859 Robert was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Kennedy, a native of county Fermanagh, Ireland, by whom he became the father of twelve children, seven of whom are now living: Matilda, John, William, Walter, Sarah J., Abba M., and Robert D. The oldest daughter, aged twenty years, and the third son, aged fifteen years, fell victims to that dread scourge diphtheria, as well as did some of his family in younger years. Mr. Foster and wife are consistant members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### COMPANY C, THIRTY-SIXTH REGIMENT.

Quite a number of Mercer county men entered this company, which was organized in Warren county and was officered almost entirely by men from that county. The organization took place August 20, 1861, and the muster-in took place about one month later at Aurora. A day or two after the organization the regiment went to Quincy, Illinois, and thence to St. Louis, Missouri. Some of the principal battles in which this regiment was engaged were: Bentonville, Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone river, Chickamauga creek. Many other skirmishes and light engagements were participated in by this regiment. Nine of Mercer county's citizens died at the enemy's hands or from disease contracted in the service.

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#### COMPANY A, THIRTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT.

This was a Rock Island county company, and like many other companies and regiments from adjoining counties, drew liberally on Mercer county for men. The regiment was made up of squads from all parts of the state and from other states. Company A, to which the Mercer county boys attached themselves, was organized August 14, 1861, and a month and a few days later the regiment was organized and the men mustered into service at Chicago. The war had then begun to be a reality and troops were not kept in the state long for show or drill, but, as was the case with the thirty-seventh, were sent immediately to the scene of action. The next day after the completion of the organization this regiment was sent to St. Louis, and a few days later to Booneville, Otterville and Springfield. On January 24, 1862, the regiment was in the battle of Pea Ridge and September 29 at New-tonia, the battle of Fayetteville soon after being the scene of an engage-



ment in which this regiment participated. The regiment was mustered out May 15, 1866. Twelve names on the monument at Aledo attest the devotion of Mercer county's heroes to the old flag.

### COMPANY I, SEVENTEENTH REGIMENT.

Co. I, of the 17th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., was raised from men at New Boston, Keithsburg and Aledo. Dr. E. P. Wood, of New Boston (afterward lieutenant-colonel of the regiment), Geo. W. Sanders, William Avery, E. S. Bruington, and D. T. Hindman were leading spirits in organizing the company. Enos P. Wood was afterward (April 20, 1861) elected captain, and a month later, on the organization of the regiment, elected lieutenant-colonel; Edward S. Bruington, second lieutenant (afterward captain); and Geo. W. Sanders, who also afterward was promoted to the captaincy, as first lieutenant. William Avery succeeded from second to first lieutenantcy on the formation of the regiment. Wm. A. Lorimer was promoted to second, then to first lieutenant, and was mustered out as captain of the company. Theodore Glancey was chosen second lieutenant April 2, 1863, and afterward, and until the expiration of his term, promoted to second lieutenantcy.

The company left New Boston April 19, 1861, for Monmouth, whither they marched. At Monmouth they tarried four days, and in the meantime were met by company F, of Warren county. April 23 they took the cars to Peoria, and went into camp, the camp being named Camp Mather. Company I was raised as a three months' company, but the call for the three months' men was already full and overflowing when they arrived in camp. It was generally understood before arriving there that such was the case, and nearly all were ready to enlist for three years. A few, however, declined and returned home. May 24 the regiment was organized, and company I, with as brave a lot of men as ever carried the musket, was assigned the position indicated by the letter given above.

One item in the history of this company will be remembered as long as a member of it remains. Though rough usage and privations incident to army life left their impressions, yet they were not suffered to sink so deeply into the heart of the rough soldier as did the act of kindness of the citizens of Monmouth during the four days of their stay in that city. The best and foremost people of the town opened their doors, their cupboards, and their hearts to the boys, and nothing was considered too good for them. Long years have passed and many

of the incidents of the war have been obliterated from the minds of the grim warriors, but these acts, which went down deep into the heart, are as fresh as though performed but yesterday.

The Seventeenth Regiment of Ill. Vol. Inf., was mustered into the the United States' service at Peoria, Illinois, on May 24, 1861, and left camp on the 17th of June for Alton, Illinois, for the purpose of more fully completing its organization and arming. Late in July it proceeded from Alton to St. Charles, Missouri, remaining but one day ; thence went to Warrenton, Missouri, where it remained in camp about two weeks: company A being detailed as body guard to General John Pope, with headquarters at St. Charles.

The regiment left Warrenton for St. Louis, and embarked on transports for Bird's point Missouri ; remained at Bird's point some weeks, doing garrison duty ; then proceeded to Sulphur Springs Landing ; debarking there proceeding via Pilot Knob and Ironton, to Fredericktown, Missouri, in pursuit of General Jeff. Thompson, and joined General B. M. Prentiss' command at Jackson, Missouri. They thence proceeded to Kentucky and aided in the construction of Fort Holt. They were then ordered to Elliott's mills ; remained there a short time and returned to Fort Holt. They went from thence to Cape Girardeau, and with other regiments were again sent in pursuit of Gen. Jeff. Thompson's forces ; participated in the engagement near Greenfield ; lost one man killed and several wounded, and returned to Cape Girardeau, doing provost duty until early in February, 1862, when they were ordered to Fort Henry ; participated in that engagement and Fort Donelson, losing several men killed, wounded and taken prisoners. They then proceeded to Metal Landing, Tennessee river, and embarked for Savannah, Tennessee ; from thence to Pittsburg Landing and were assigned to the First Division, Army West Tennessee, under Gen. John A. McClernand ; were engaged in the battles of April 6 and 7, and suffered great loss in killed and wounded

They were with the advance to Corinth. After the evacuation of Corinth they marched to Purdy, Bethel and Jackson, Tennessee, and remained there until July 17, when the regiment was ordered to Bolivar, and was assigned to duty as provost guard. They remained at Bolivar until November, 1862, during which time they participated in the expedition to Iuka, to reinforce Gen. Rosecrans, and afterward at the battle of Hatchie. They returned again to Bolivar, and remained there until the middle of November. They were then ordered to Lagrange, reporting to Major Gen. John A. Logan, and were assigned to duty as provost guard, Col. Norton being assigned to the command at that post. Early in December they marched to



Holly Springs ; thence to Abbeyville guarding railroads, and thence to Oxford. After the capture of Holly Springs the regiment was assigned to the Sixth Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, under Maj. Gen. McPherson. They then proceeded, via Moscow, to Collierville ; from there to Memphis, and the regiment was assigned to duty at the navy yard. They remained there until January 16, and then embarked for Vicksburg ; re-embarked and proceeded to Lake Providence, Louisiana, then the headquarters of the Seventeenth Army Corps, doing duty there until the investment of Vicksburg commenced. Arriving at Milliken's Bend, on or about May 1, they commenced to march across the Delta to Perkins' landing, on the Mississippi river ; thence to the crossing below Grand Gulf, advancing with McPherson's command, via Raymond, Champion Hills, Jackson, Big Black, and to the final investment of Vicksburg. After the surrender of that city, the regiment remained there doing garrison duty and making incursions into the enemy's country as far east as Meridian, and west as far as Monroe, Louisiana. Returning to Vicksburg they remained there until May, 1864, the term of service of the regiment expiring on May 24, of that year.

The regiment was ordered to Springfield, Illinois, for muster-out and final discharge, when and where those of the original organization who did not re-enlist as veterans were mustered out and discharged. A sufficient number not having re-enlisted to entitle them to retain their regimental organization, the veterans and recruits whose term of service had not expired consolidated with the 8th Ill. Vol. Inf., and were finally mustered out with that regiment and discharged in the spring of 1866.

Seventeen names are engraved on Mercer county's soldiers' monument as having given up their lives for their country's warfare. Some of these were killed on the battle-field ; some were wounded, and, after long and painful suffering, died from the effects of wounds ; and some were victims of diseases brought on by exposure in the camp and on the march.

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## RICHLAND GROVE TOWNSHIP.

### EARLY HISTORY.

Arasmith Grove was changed to Richland Grove in 1837. The circumstances connected with the change were these : Josiah Jordan was building a house, and a talk arose as to the name of the grove. He proposed to those present that, as some did not like the name

Arasmith, they there and then change the name to Richland Grove. The name was almost unanimously adopted, and has come down to the present time. In 1834 the township was a solitary tract of desert waste, not a single house having yet been built.

The first house was built by Abner Arasmith, in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 13. The first store was kept by Asa McMurtry, and the second by Willis Peckingpaugh. The first blacksmith shop was kept by George Lorance and the second by Luther Barnard.

Chancy Stanard, the hero of those early days, taught the first school, in the winter of 1837-8, in a log-house (size 12×14 feet) which stood on the Peter Metzler farm (S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 14). Chancy Stanard also conducted the first Sunday school, in 1837, near the same place.

In 1835 Wesley Arasmith, Sr., Abner and Alvin Arasmith, and Thomas Sellers constituted the settlers. In 1836 Peter and John Metzler, George and John Love, Hugh Montgomery, Charles Norman, Sr., Henry Stowers, Henry, George and John Peckingpaugh, Thomas Chires, Sr. and Jr., William Parker, Hugh McMullen, Ahmond Wilcox, James Manning, Daniel Valentine, and Levi Shaw, came to the township.

In 1837 James Glenn, Alden Perce, Chancy Stanard, Alfred Dorsee, Parker Tinney, Wm. Lowther, Jonathan Smith, and Albert Merryman settled here, and in 1838 Thomas J. Jordan, John A. Jordan, John Rhodenbaugh, Lucius Dimmock, L. F. Langford, Joseph B. Trego, John Morey, and Abner Vanmeter. Of those named who are known to be living there are: John Metzler, George Love, Charles Norman, Sr., Henry Stowers, Thomas Chires, Jr., Alfred Dorsee, John A. and Thomas J. Jordan, Parker Tinney, L. F. Langford, Albert Merryman, John Rhodenbaugh, Joseph B. Trego, and John Morey. The graveyard west of Swedona contains many honored dead of those early days, and as the early settler talks of his old associates, the tears will fill his eyes, thinking of the many happy days spent together.

#### VILLAGE OF SWEDONA.

The village now known by the above name was laid out in 1838 by Abner Arasmith, now of Kansas. Being located on what was known as the state road, between Knoxville and Rock Island, it became quite a thriving village, reaching at one time a population of about 500. The first store building was erected by Asa McMurtry. The name was changed from Berlin to Swedona in 1869, and, as the name implies, the population consists largely of Swedes.



## METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SWEDONA.

The society of American Methodists was organized by Rev. Asa McMurtry in 1837. The leader was Chancy Stanard. Some did not join for some time, but all remember the early days. The names are : Chancy Stanard, leader, Mrs. Stanard, William and Mrs. Lewis, Lucius Dimmock, Alvin and Mrs. Arasmith, Thomas and Mrs. Chires, Thomas Chires, Jr., Ann and Sarah Chires, Mary Love, Stephen and Mrs. Smith, Thomas and Mrs. Brittingham, Mrs. William Smith, John Rhodenbaugh, Stower's family (four), Mr. Consider, and Mrs. Barney, Sr., Joseph Crawford, Irvin and Mrs. Stone.

The building now occupied by the congregation was completed in 1848, although services had been held in it years previous to that date.

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN (SWEDISH), SWEDONA.

The Lutheran church society was organized by Rev. Jonas Swanson in 1858 with fifty communicants. The church was built in 1859. This society has continued to grow until now it is one of the largest, if not the largest, in the county. There are now over 500 communicants, and they always have a large congregation. Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Chilberg, who are the oldest Swedish settlers in the township, still live near the church, and they look back with pleasure over the history of the society.

## UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

The American Society of United Brethren was organized by the Rev. Abner Norman in the winter of 1871-2, with a membership of about thirty. The church building was erected in 1873.

The Swedish Methodist Episcopal church society was organized by Rev. Victor Vitting in 1856 with a small membership. The church was built in 1860. The society has continued to grow and is now large and prosperous.

## GRIFFIN BROTHERS' TILE WORKS.

On the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34, are situated the tile works owned and operated by the Griffin Brothers. The works were established in 1879, and since that time these enterprising gentlemen have been scarcely able to meet the great and increasing demand for their tile. The clay underlying their land is of a very fine quality, and is pronounced by Prof. Weber equal to any in the state. These gentlemen are sons of William E. Griffin, Esq. (deceased), who was for many years supervisor of the township.

[For the above matter, collected from John A. Jordan, we are indebted to B. F. Eckley, Esq.—ED.]



SAMUEL CLARK.

( DECEASED )





## CABLE.

The population of this village consists chiefly of miners in the employ of the Cable. A shaft and slope are operated here under the supervision of Robert Lee. The aggregate capacity of the two mines being about 80,000 tons annually, about 400 men are constantly employed, besides eight mining machines, each performing the labor of about six men. The coal is transported over the Mercer County railroad to Rock Island, and thence to surrounding towns.

On the afternoon of June 5, 1844, a mass of angry clouds were seen gathering west of Swedona, which, owing to their peculiar appearance, attracted considerable attention. About five o'clock in the evening they began to move rapidly eastward, and in a few moments the storm burst with terrific fury upon the village and surrounding country. The air seemed full of electricity, the crackling of which sounded like the discharge of musketry. Huge trees were torn off, a great many barns and dwellings were badly damaged, and a number of people killed, among whom were Mr. Trego and son a few miles northwest of Swedona. This storm was probably the severest ever known in this locality, but the country being very sparsely settled the fatality was not so great as attends some of those whirling monsters of later days. An eye witness states that for some time after the storm had subsided, streaks of phosphorescent light were seen creeping over the ground, and the air had a peculiar smell resembling sulphur. The storm moved eastward strewing death and desolation in its path, and was last heard of in Henry and Bureau counties.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Among the many men and women who in early times bade farewell to friends and kindred and took up their abode in the wilds of Illinois, none are more deserving of the reverence of posterity than SAMUEL CLARK, and his wife, SARAH CLARK. The burden of life which they had borne together through so many years has been laid down by the wayside, and the venerable couple rest side by side in the peaceful sanctuary of the tomb. Samuel Clark was born near Londonderry, Ireland, in 1813. He emigrated to America in 1833, and located in Brooklyn, New York, where he remained two and a half years. In the fall of 1836 he came to Mercer county, and located on section 12. He was married in 1838 to Miss Sarah Huyek, of Dayton, Ohio. Five children were born to the couple, whose names are as follows: James G., Jennie (deceased wife of Dr. Ansley), Louisa (deceased in infancy), Florence (deceased), and Florence (now residing in Swedona). Mrs. Clark died April 5, 1878, and Mr. Clark in May, 1882.



GEORGE ECKLEY was born in Richland county, Ohio, January 5, 1821. He emigrated with his parents to Fulton county, Illinois, in 1834, and from there to Stark and Knox counties, in the latter of which, November 23, 1843, he married Miss Melinda Cullenson. Together they removed to Rivoli township, Mercer county, in 1851, and finally to Richland Grove township, Swedona, where they now live. In August, 1862, Mr. Eckley enlisted in Co. C, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and served until the close of the rebellion. After the rebellion he was the leader in the long struggle against saloons in Old Berlin, and they were finally banished the place. His education is limited, but with many other early day men he has good general information. He is an ardent republican and supporter of republican principles. A member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years leader of the class in Swedona. Mr. Eckley is a man of energy and firmness, and when he undertakes a work he is determined to carry it through. Mrs. Melinda Eckley was born in Knox county, Ohio, November 18, 1821, and came to Illinois with her parents in 1842, and marrying Mr. George Eckley November 23, 1843, her work has been to assist in all that could make home pleasant and prosperous. They are the parents of eight children, four of whom are living: Rebecca Jane, Margery Ellen, Susan Caroline, and Benjamin Franklin. If you ever visit Swedona be sure and call and see uncle George, who still lives on his farm west of the village.

C. BEECHER BRISTOL, was born in Oxford, Connecticut, September 14, 1798. His great grandfather was born on the ocean, in 1714. He located in Connecticut when the New England states were almost a wilderness, cleared a farm and built a home where our subject and his father and grandfather were born. Early in life Mr. Bristol experienced a desire to enter the ministry, and he began studying for that purpose. After having received an academical education, he entered the Princeton seminary, receiving his diploma from that institution at the end of three years. He officiated as pastor of various congregations until 1856, when he came to Preemption township, where he was sent as stated supply. He was married, shortly after completing his studies, to Miss Maria Henderson. Four sons and four daughters were the fruits of this union, two of whom died in infancy. One of his sons, Beecher, enlisted in the 60th Ill. Inf., and after two years re-enlisted as veteran. He is now located in Monmouth, as is also a younger son, Leavitt, who recently graduated from Monmouth college. This venerable gentleman has lived to a ripe old age, and can feel that he has not lived in vain.

Dr. J. M. ANSLEY was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, May 21, 1833. He received an academical education at Glade

run academy, after which he went to Philadelphia, where he received his medical education, graduating from Jefferson college. After finishing his studies he practiced about five years in his native state, after which he came to Illinois and located at Swedona, where he now has a very lucrative practice. In February, 1869, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Jennie (Clark) Trego, daughter of Samuel Clark, one of the pioneers of Mercer county, who died in May, 1873. Two children were born to this couple, Clark F. and Charley; of these the latter died in infancy.

JAMES G., son of Samuel and Sarah Clark, was born in Richland Grove township, November 7, 1840, and is consequently a production of Mercer county. He received his education in the district schools, attending his first term at Oxford, Illinois. He is the eldest of a family of five children, whose names are given elsewhere. He was married February 20, 1873, to Miss Emma K. Engle. The names of the children born to this worthy couple, are as follows: Charles A., Grace, Jennie, and Samuel. Mr. Clark was elected supervisor in 1879, and is now serving in that capacity a third term. He is highly spoken of by his neighbors, and we believe has established a character and reputation that are above reproach.

JAMES S., son of Jesse and Ann Quaintance, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, September 5th, 1831. In 1854 he came to Illinois and located on section 15, Richland Grove township. Married in February, 1857, to Miss Martha A. Hardenbrook. The fruits of this union are seven children, whose names in the order of their ages are as follows: Erwood J., Stella A., Hadley W., Adeline M., Bertha B., Harry, and Jesse C. Mr. Quaintance is a member of the A.F.A.M., New Windsor lodge. He is also assessor in Richland Grove township, and is highly respected by all who know him.

DAVID, son of David and Elizabeth Sherrard, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1818. He was married in 1836 to Miss Eliza Sawers, a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are as follows; Rachel H., James W., David H., John V., Olive, Vance S., and Frank W. In 1854 he came to Mercer county, and located on section 4, Richland Grove township, where he has since resided. By hard labor and industry he has accumulated a large property.

HENRY, son of Albert and Jane Merryman, was born in Richland Grove township, in January, 1843. Married December 29, 1870, to Miss Flora Peters, a native of Whitesides county, Illinois. The names of their children, in the order of their ages, are as follows: Winnifred



(deceased), Ethel L., Harry L., Bertha M., and Edith L. Mrs. Merryman is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church.

JOHN B., son of William and Mary (Butler) Adams, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania. When twenty-five years of age he came to Illinois and entered land in sections 31 and 32, Richland Grove township. He was married in the spring of 1854 to Miss Hannah E. Crossley, also a native of Pennsylvania. Elwood, Harvey, Jennie, Dallas B., George, William, and John, are the names of their children.

ALBERT D., son of Timothy and Elizabeth Merryman, was born in Cumberland county, Maine, November 7, 1812. His father was a soldier in the war of 1812. In the fall of 1836 the family emigrated to Fulton county, Illinois. In the spring of 1837 they located on section 27, Richland Grove township. Our subject was married August 25, 1836, to Miss Jane Patten. The names of the children born to the couple are as follows: Emily, Amanda, Joseph P. (deceased), Henry, Thomas J., William A. (deceased), Ann E. (deceased), Sidney, and Marion.

DAVID D., son of Timothy and Elizabeth Merryman, was born in Kennebec county, Maine, in 1819. In the fall of 1836 the family came to Fulton county, Illinois, and remained until the following spring, when they came to Mercer county and located. Mr. Merryman was married in August, 1846, to Miss Phœbe A. Hibbard, who died June 22, 1848. He was again married in 1852 to Miss Mary M. Evans, who was born in Galena, Illinois, October 8, 1827. The names of their children are as follows: Freeman, Flora A., Florence A., Nelson I., Perry A., Charles A., George E., Frank L., and Fannie A. His eldest son was a member of Co. C, 102d Ill. Inf.

DANIEL, son of John and Elizabeth (Shiffler) Mowry, was born in Washington county, Maryland, October 6, 1819. In 1856 he emigrated to Mercer county, and located on section 3, Richland Grove township. He was married November 14, 1843, to Miss Nancy Newcomer, also a native of Maryland. Following are the names of the children born to the worthy couple: George D., and Charles M., both of whom now reside in Nodaway county, Missouri; Cornelia J., wife of B. F. Trego, of Rock Island county; Otho J., and Lena J. (deceased in her third year). Our subject and wife are both members of the United Brethren church, with which they united in 1852. The Mowry family are of German origin. Mrs. Mowry was born in 1818. Her mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Garber. In 1871 Mr. Mowry was elected supervisor of Richland Grove township, in which capacity he served five terms, giving universal satisfaction.

DAVID, son of Samuel and Charlott Wilson, was born in Rensselaer county, New York, June 1, 1820. His father had charge of the commissary department, at East Troy, during the war of 1812. In 1844 our subject came to Mercer county and located at Berlin (now known as Swedona), where he remained four years. At the end of that time he went north, where he was, for ten years, engaged in the lumbering business. He enlisted in the spring of 1864 in Co. A, 156th Ill. Inf., and served until the following September. He was married in 1841 to Miss Caroline Hungford, a native of New York, who died in 1848. He was again married in 1853 to Miss Mary Abbott, a native of Minnesota. He is the father of one son, Hartland, who was born to him by his first wife.

CHARLES ENGLE, son of Joseph and Hannah Engle, was born in Burlington county, New Jersey, August 3, 1822. In the spring of 1844 he joined the throng of emigrants pouring westward, and continued his journey toward the setting sun, until he reached Mercer county. He located on section 4, in Richland Grove township. He was married September 11, 1846, to Miss Sarah Kinsey, daughter of Edmund Kinsey, who came to the county in 1841, having formerly been a resident of Knox county, Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Engle was born. The names of the children born to them are as follows: Joseph, (now of Dallas county, Iowa), Emma K. (wife of James Clark, Esq.), Martha K. Trego (deceased in her twenty-sixth year), Mary E. (wife of Frank Trego, of Orion, Illinois), William H., Edgar W., Fred, and Sadie K. The family are of Quaker descent, which fact may partially account for the kindness and courtesy with which even a stranger is greeted, who visits their happy home.

Although at present a resident of Rock Island county, Capt. JOHN A. JORDAN deserves a place in the history of Mercer. He was born in Rockland, Maine, January 11, 1819. The family are of English origin. The grandfathers on both sides were soldiers in the revolution. His father participated in the war of 1812, and our subject and two of his sons took up arms in defense of the flag, in the late rebellion. Thus have the Jordan family took part in all the great struggles that have taken place upon American soil since the birth of the republic; a remarkable fact, and one of which they and their ancestors may well be proud. His father, Robert Jordan, was a seaman by profession, having spent twenty years of his life on the ocean wave. The family emigrated to Tiffin, Ohio, when our subject was in his youth. Here his father died on November 4, 1832. In 1838 the two brothers, John A. and Thomas J., came to Illinois and located on section 14, Richland Grove township. In 1841 our subject was married to Miss Rachel



Metzler, of Coshocton county, Ohio. The names of the children born to them are as follows: Byron, Edwin T., Olive M. (deceased in her seventeenth year), and William H. In August, 1861, Mr. Jordan, with that promptitude and enthusiasm which characterize his every action, raised and organized Co. A, 37th Ill. Inf., of which he was made captain. On January 1, 1862, he resigned his position on account of disabilities, but raised one full company and part of another after his return home. The captain now resides in Rural township, Rock Island county, and is its present supervisor. He is a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and his kind, genial ways leave pleasant impressions upon those who have ever enjoyed his hospitality.

DR. JAMES S. ROSENBERRY was born in Warren county, New Jersey, in 1837. In 1849 the family emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, and located in Perryton township. The subject of this sketch began the study of medicine in 1855, in the office of Dr. James S. Mathews, of Preemption township, under whose instructions he remained three years. August, 1861, he enlisted in the 66th Illinois Sharpshooters, in which regiment he acted as hospital steward during the term of his enlistment, which expired August 31, 1864. On his return he entered the medical university of Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he took one course of lectures. He then entered the Keokuk university, from which institution he received his diploma, May 30, 1865. He then located at Coal Valley, Illinois, where he practiced five years. In 1870 he located in Richland Grove township, where he still resides. He was married in 1867 to Miss Mary E. Tenny, who died in 1872. Again married in January, 1881, to Miss Sarah E. Rains, a native of Scott county, Iowa.

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### RIVOLI TOWNSHIP.

This township, which is designated in the government surveys as T. 14 N., R. 1 W. of the 4th P.M., was originally called North Pope, but its name was changed to Rivoli, at the suggestion of Hon. R. H. Spicer, one of the earliest pioneers.

The first settler in this township was Mr. James Bridger, who located here in the spring of 1836, having previously located in Schuyler county, this state, where he arrived from New York December 9, 1833. Mr. Bridger was born in Sussex, England, August 1, 1802, emigrating to America in the spring of 1822, arriving in New York in April of that year. He made the trip across the Atlantic in a sail vessel in the then unprecedented time of seventeen days. In 1835

Mr. Bridger accompanied a gentleman from Schuyler county on a horseback trip to Rock Island, where the gentleman had business, Mr. Bridger going for the sake of seeing the country. Rock Island at that time comprised two log cabins, giving but very little earnest of its present population, wealth and business. Going to Rock Island they followed a trail that led them near the present county line between Mercer and Henry counties.

Returning they struck for Monmouth, following the old military trail as it was called, which was very near the present line of road from Rock Island to Monmouth. After passing a cabin near the present site of Milan the next habitation they saw was that of Hopkins Boone on Edwards river. They reached the ford on North Henderson after dark, and not knowing its character, they did not like to venture in. Seeing a light from the cabin of William Stewart, who lived then near the ford on the south side of the stream, they hailed, and were answered by Mr. Stewart in person, who brought a torch and lighted them across the stream, bidding them welcome to the hospitality of his cabin in true pioneer style.

This trip resulted in Mr. Bridger removing to this county the following spring, and improving a claim on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S. W. of Sec. 31 in this township, where he still resides, enjoying the fruits of his early industry and economy. Mr. Bridger figures in the initial history of this township in more points than that of being the first settler. The death of his first wife, which occurred in June, 1836, was the first death in the township. She was buried in the Mann cemetery on section 6, in North Henderson township, and was the first burial in that cemetery and the first in that township, in fact. His marriage in January, 1837, to Mrs. Eliza Longley was the first marriage in the township, and his son (Ira G.), born October 14, 1837, was the first birth. In his cabin occurred the preaching of the first sermon in the township, by Rev. Samuel P. Burr, who was two years in the Mercer circuit of the Methodist Episcopal church, and an old pioneer, having settled in Edgar county, Illinois, in 1820. He was born in Langdon, New Hampshire, September 8, 1809, and died in Madison county, Nebraska, November 25, 1881. The winter of 1836-7 his cabin, which was 14×18 feet dimension, sheltered a family of fourteen persons, but still they had room to entertain any belated traveler who chanced to come that way.

In the summer of 1841 a band of Pottawattomie Indians on a hunting expedition were encamped near Mr. Bridger's for a month or more. While there a son of the chief was sick and died, and they buried him on a hill on the south side of Pope creek, in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, in



North Henderson township, erecting a tall white oak pole by the grave, to the top of which was attached a white flag. This pole remained standing for many years, but the grave was marked longer by the remains of a pen of heavy rails that enclosed it, which could be identified until quite recently, if it cannot be even yet.

Ira G., the oldest son, married Miss Susan E. Brown, a native of North Henderson township, daughter of Benjamin F. Brown, an old pioneer. They were married July 24, 1864, and lived on the Bridger homestead until the death of Mrs. Susan, which occurred May 15, 1877, leaving no family but her husband, who still lives on the old place and cares for his aged parents. A younger son (Albert C.) married Miss Sallie Brown, daughter of Harrison Brown, of Suez township, in 1862, and he enlisted in Co. E, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., the same year, and died of disease at Gallatin, Tennessee, December 8, 1862, holding the rank of sergeant in his company.

Richard Cox was among the first settlers in the eastern part of the township, locating in 1837. He was a native of Ohio, of limited education, but of good native sense and strictly upright character. He was among the first elected to the office of justice of the peace in the eastern part of the county. He was one of the early county commissioners, also, and was re-elected to both offices several times. He was a man of pronounced views, and outspoken in their advocacy, and was esteemed and respected by his neighbors. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church; a whig, while that party existed, and a republican after the organization of that party.

James Durston is another pioneer who has left a very prominent mark in the history of this township; born in Ashcott, Somersetshire, England, April 24, 1806. He came to America in 1832, stopping first in the State of New York, where he married Philadelphia Bridger, who was born in Sussex, England, April 18, 1817, and came thence to New York, in 1828. There their oldest daughter, Maria, was born, August 19, 1833. He came to Illinois in 1837, and settled first on section 36, in Greene township, where Charles F., the oldest son, was born, August 14, 1837, the first birth in that township. Besides the two above named children were James T., born April 17, 1839; Sidney, September 14, 1841; Martha, May 7, 1843; Joseph, March 1, 1845, died November 10, 1846; Samuel L., June 10, 1847; Harriet, July 8, 1849; William E., November 2, 1851; Elizabeth Matilda, May 22, 1854; Alfred Orion, December 25, 1856; Elmer, December 12, 1861, died January 31, 1864.

In 1838 Mr. D. made a claim on section 30, in this township, which he afterward sold to Mr. Spicer, and made his improvements on sec-

tion 15, where he lived until his death, which occurred September 8, 1879, his wife having died April 11, 1866. The family constitute a prominent feature of the township, having held various positions of honor and trust in the township and county. Charles F., though living in Aledo now, owns a good farm in the township. James T. and Sidney also own good farms on which they reside. Samuel L. has the old homestead.

On Mr. Durston's place was built the first school-house in the township, in 1848, the frame of which now does duty in a granary for Hon. A. J. Streeter. Mr. Durston was one of the original members of the Wesleyan Methodist church, organized in Oxford in August 1847, and also of the class organized at Hopewell in the spring of 1848, as part of that church. This Hopewell class being the first church organization effected in that township, and until the school-house above referred to was built, their meetings were held at Mr. Durston's residence or that of Mr. Chidester.

Nelson Chidester and his wife, Rebecca (Stewart), are among the early pioneers who still live to enjoy the advantages their labors have helped to build up out of the privations of pioneer life. Mr. Chidester was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, May 20, 1811; was married in that state October 29, 1834, and came to Illinois in 1839, spending the first winter at Little York, in Warren county; removing in the spring of 1840 to the northeast of section 16, in this township, where he still resides. Mr. and Mrs. Chidester were original members of the above-mentioned church, to which they still belong. The second school taught in the township was on Mr. Chidester's premises, occupying a back porch when the weather was pleasant, and moving into the kitchen when it rained. This school was taught in the summer of 1843 by Mary Stewart. The next year (1844) Mr. Chidester built a temporary building in his yard with lumber designed for a barn, where Miss Pollock, of North Henderson, taught when the weather was pleasant; when it rained she had to adjourn her school to the house, and that was a frequent occurrence that year.

Another pioneer who has helped largely to make the history of the township, through the influence of his family, which still resides there, was Stephen Smith, who was born in Massachusetts, February 22, 1801. Emigrated to Ohio about 1820. The spring of 1823 he married Miss Anna Belt, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, August 25, 1803. Mr. Smith was a blacksmith by trade, having served a seven years' apprenticeship at the trade in Massachusetts. He worked at his trade in Ohio, his special forte being the working of steel and making axes, which business at that time was not exclusively in the hands of large



manufacturers as at present. In 1874 Mrs. Smith was visiting about her old home in Ohio, and was shown axes still in use that Mr. Smith made before leaving there thirty-four years previously. In 1840 Mr. Smith came to Illinois, locating first in Richland Grove township, where he lived two years before moving into this township in 1842. He operated the first blacksmith shop in the township on his place in section 4. Mr. Smith died April 10, 1847, leaving his wife to rear the family. The honorable position the children occupy in the town is ample voucher for the faithful and able manner in which she executed the trust.

Maj. McMullen was another early settler, making one of the first improvements in the northeastern part of the township. His house was blown from its foundation by a tornado that swept up through the Edwards valley June 5, 1844. For many years after, in breaking prairie or plowing in the vicinage of improvements that were in the line of that storm, people would encounter stakes where the wind had driven fence-rails into the ground and broken them off.

In 1837 John Heriford (there is some question as to the proper orthography, as his deeds from Uncle Sam for various tracts of land entered at different times have it as above, and also Heryford and Herryford) made a claim and settled on section 29, but after a few years he sold out and left the country. Tradition has it that the first school in this township was taught in a cabin belonging to Mr. Heriford, which stood nearly opposite where Zion Methodist Episcopal church now stands, but nothing very definite can be obtained in regard to it.

Another pioneer was Abram Watson, who came to this township in 1838, and was probably the only revolutionary soldier ever living in the county, if we except George Spies, who lived for a short time with Richard Cox, and afterward lived eight years with Mr. Bachus, of Oxford, and died there some twenty years ago at the age of 105 years. Mr. Watson was a native of Virginia, and enlisted in the revolutionary army at the age of fourteen. He was engaged at the siege of Yorktown, and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis. He was wounded during the siege by a bayonet thrust through the leg. It was the custom when soldiers were standing upon the breastworks, if any one saw a puff of smoke arise in front of them, indicating the discharge of a gun by the British, to call shot! when they would instantly seek the shelter of the trenches. On one occasion of this kind, Mr. Watson, boy-like, without looking behind him, leaped backward from the top of the parapet, receiving the bayonet of a fellow-soldier in the calf of his leg. He lived on his claim in section 29 until his death, which

occurred in May, 1847, when over eighty years of age, and was buried on his claim. He emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky at an early day, and thence to this state, at what time is not known, as he had been living in Warren county prior to coming to this county. He married his second wife in Warren county, and she survived him until soon after the breaking out of the late war of the rebellion. At her death the neighbors removed his remains to the Woodhams cemetery, where they are buried with hers.

Daniel Jones settled in this county in the spring of 1837, having come to the state a year previously and lived at Knoxville, Knox county. Though his educational advantages had been limited, his energy, his native good sense and sterling integrity soon caused him to be held in high estimation by his fellow pioneers. His neighbors having elected him to some local office, he was averse to its acceptance because he was not a native of the United States, but the adaption of the constitution of 1848 soon after cured that difficulty, and he served his neighbors in numerous official positions of importance afterward. He was among the first school trustees of the township, subsequent to the school organization in 1848. At the third election for town officers under township organization in 1856, he was elected supervisor for the township, and was re-elected in 1858.

Soon after settling on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N. E. of Sec. 25, he made a claim on the N. E. of the S. E. of the same section, and had made rails and fenced and broke part of it, when another man came along and made a claim on the same tract. Mr. J., becoming satisfied that through some informality he could not hold the claim, had intimated as much to some of his neighbors. One night shortly after, entirely unknown to Mr. J., his neighbors turned out and hauled all the rails off the disputed claim and piled them up near Mr. J.'s house. He is now at the age of seventy-four years carrying on a farm of eighty acres near Galesburg, Illinois, to which place he removed in 1863, overseeing the business and taking care of his stock himself. He was born in Canada, February 22, 1808, and on March 2, 1830, was married to Miss Atlanta Bartlett, whose brother, Gardner Bartlett, was sent by the Baptists of Vermont as a missionary to Illinois, in 1833. His labors and acquaintance in this part of the state influenced Mr. Jones to remove hither three years later. They raised a family of six children, two daughters and four sons, all of whom are respected and useful members of the communities in which they reside. Mrs. J. died August 27, 1868.

Orson Jones was born in Canada, January 6, 1834, and June 24, 1858, married Amelia, oldest daughter of R. C. Sexton, of Viola,



Illinois, who died three months after her marriage. May 29, 1860, he was again married to Miss Helen P., daughter of William C. Bartlett, one of the earliest settlers of Geneseo, in Henry county. Miss Helen was born in Geneseo, October 30, 1840. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. D, 83d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. At the time of the enlistment of the colored troops, he applied for a transfer and was commissioned as first lieutenant, Co. F, 14th reg, U. S. Col'd Vol. Inf., with which command he served until it was mustered out in March, 1866, nearly a year after the close of the war. Upon his return from the army in the spring of 1866, he settled upon his present farm of 154 acres, situated in section 7, in Oxford township, Henry county, where he continues to reside.

He has held nearly all the local offices in the gift of the people of his township, and now fills the important office of county surveyor of Henry county, and is also secretary of the Rivoli Township Farmer's Insurance Company of this county, of which he is a member. He is one of those men who have made the most of their limited opportunities, and he now stands high in the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. Farming and stock raising have been his chief occupations. Republican in politics. Religiously he and his wife are baptists, but there being no church of that faith near them, they have connected themselves with the Congregational society of New Windsor. They have two children: Frederick D., born September 13, 1861, and Minnie G., born January 1, 1867.

The next son, Norville, served in Col. Woods' 140th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and now resides near Malvern, Iowa. Granville lives near Galesburg. Corwin, at Farragut, Iowa. Louisia (now Mrs. Andreson) at Malvern, Iowa; and Mrs. Lockwood, also in Iowa.

March 3, 1870. Mr. Jones (Daniel) married Mrs. Ward, of Oxford, Henry county, who now shares his home with him in his declining years. Other names might be mentioned here among the pioneers, but their stay was short and their trails are well nigh obliterated by the growth of time.

The Rev. Hugh Breckenridge has been identified with this county since 1855, at which time he came to this state from Mercer county, Pennsylvania, where he was born May 5, 1826. The first four years of his residence here he worked at the carpenter trade, mostly in Ohio Grove township. His father, William, and his mother, Jane (Wallace) Breckenridge, were natives of Pennsylvania. His paternal grandfather and mother were natives of Scotland, whence they emigrated to this country. In the fall of 1859 Mr. B. returned to his native state, and February 3, 1860, was married to Miss Mary Watson, a native of Mercer

county, Pennsylvania, and daughter of John and Lucinda Watson, of that county. Bringing his wife to Illinois with him, he settled April 21, 1861, on his farm, the northwest of section 4, in Rivoli township, building his present residence that year. His farm now embraces 200 acres. They are members of the Hopewell Wesleyan Methodist church, of which Mr. B. is now a regularly ordained minister, having been ordained September 20, 1874, though he has been engaged in preaching for the last sixteen years. For two years he was pastor in charge of Hopewell circuit and was on the Ball Bluff circuit two years. The last three years he has been associate pastor of the Hopewell circuit. They have had six children, of whom five survive at present: Juanita, born December 31, 1860; Clara L., September 23, 1862; William W., July 13, 1865; Sarah L., January 4, 1868 (died October 17, 1868); Edward E., May 23, 1869; and Mary A., June 7, 1870.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first official record of the schools of Rivoli township, 14 N., R. 1 W., is dated February 26, 1848, at which time James Bridger, Nelson Chidester, and Jonathan D. Wood, school trustees, met at the house of R. R. Cox and appointed the latter treasurer, and divided the township into three districts as follows: "The first district shall commence at the southeast corner of said township and run three miles west, and then due north until it strikes North Pope creek, then up said creek to the township line, then south along said line to the place of beginning. The second district shall be composed of all the said township north of North Pope creek. The third district shall commence at the southwest corner of said township and run three miles east, then north till it strikes North Pope creek, then down said creek to the west line of said township, then south to the place of beginning." They also "ordered R. R. Cox to purchase three books for the use of the treasurer, not to exceed in value \$2.00."

At the second meeting of the trustees, held April 1, 1848, they distributed the funds on hand, amounting to \$19.65, to the several districts, of which district number one was entitled to receive \$6.01; number two, \$6.37; and number three, \$7.27. They also ordered the treasurer to pay E. H. McConoughty, teacher, \$5.20; L. Chidester, teacher, \$1.15; and H. Brown, teacher, \$1.67. At the next meeting, July 1, 1848, they ordered \$3.49 paid to Sarah C. Westfall, teacher. At the next meeting, October 7, 1848, after settling with the treasurer, they find the cash on hand to amount to \$11.75, and order the same to be loaned as township funds. January 6, 1849, they find \$3.99 in the treasurer's hands, which they order loaned. April 7, 1849, they



apportioned \$27.00 to the districts, as follows : district number one, \$8.25; district number two, \$8.75; and district number three, \$10.00. The teachers ordered paid at that time were L. Cawkins, A. B. McChesney, and John Libby. It is also recorded at this meeting that "The trustees do hereby agree to act as directors of schools in said township." July 7, 1849, "This day the trustees were to meet," but there was "none present but Nelson Chidester," who "examined the treasurer's books and notes," and "found all to his satisfaction." He also "presented a schedule from district number two for \$7.50," and "ordered to pay Martha Cole, teacher," that sum. He then "adjourned to meet at the house of R. R. Cox on the first Saturday of October."

October 6, 1849, the teachers ordered paid were Catharine B. Harvey and Martha Cole. At this time the trustees returned a list of the children in the township, amounting to 105, distributed as follows : district No. 1, 26 ; district No. 2, 42 ; and district No. 3, 37. January 12, 1850, trustees met and an election was held to elect a new board, which resulted in the election of Daniel Jones, James Durston, and John L. Stewart. At this meeting R. H. Spicer presented a petition from citizens of T. 14 N., R. 2 W., asking that all the territory in said town south of North Pope creek be attached to T. 14 N., R. 1 W., for school purposes, and be included in district No. 3 of said town. The prayer of the petitioners was granted. January 19, 1850, the new board of trustees met and appointed R. R. Cox, treasurer, fixing the penalty of his bond at \$500. April 6, 1850, the trustees found \$20.63 on hand, to which they ordered \$15 added, being "money remaining in the hands of school committee." The sum of \$35.63 was then distributed to the three districts in proportion to the number of children. At this meeting the schedules of J. S. Mahan, teacher in district No. 1, and Harmon Brown, teacher in district No. 3, were approved and ordered paid. October 5, 1850, trustees approve and order paid the schedules of Melissa Wilber, teacher in district No. 1, and Martha Cole, teacher in district No. 2. April 12, 1851, the Schedule of Nathan T. Smith, teacher in district No. 1, was presented. Settlement with the treasurer at this time showed a balance of twenty-five cents on hand, which was ordered loaned as township funds. October 11, 1851, trustees filed census of children under twenty-one years of age in the town, numbering 128, of whom district No. 1 had 33, district No. 2 had 55, and district No. 3 had 40. At this time it appears that Mary Underwood taught in district No. 1; Martha Cole, in No. 2; and Lydia Ann Wilber, in No. 3. At this time the bond of Alfred Cooper for one-half acre of land for a school-house site in district No. 3 was approved. It calls

for such land as shall be agreed upon, off the east side of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 30, on or near the road running east and west. October 4, 1851, appears the first record of the election of school directors, at which time James Bridger presented to the trustees a poll book of an election held at the school-house, in district No. 3, in which it is certified that James M. Garrett, Richard Cooper and William Terry were elected directors. January 10, 1852, an election was held at the school-house in district No. 2, to elect three trustees of schools, resulting in the election of George Eckley, James Durston, and John W. Cox. Afterward it was found that John W. Cox would not serve as trustee because he would move out of the township in a short time, and they neglected returning the poll book of said election, so the treasurer gave notice of another election to be held at the same place on February 28. "The legal voters met on that day and concluded that it would not be lawful to elect three new trustees." So they "concluded that the former trustees should serve another term." At this time James Bridger was appointed treasurer.

It is evident from the record that some parties having school funds were not prompt in the payment of interest, as the record of April 17, 1852, says: "We, the trustees of schools, do hereby make it the treasurer's duty to go according to law if interest is not paid within one month after due, hereafter." The teachers whose schedules were approved at this meeting, were Lewis Cawkins, Theodore Hoagland, E. T. Scott, and E. A. Shaw. At the October meeting, 1852, schedules were audited for Mary Stewart, Jane Littlefield, and Lydia Ann Wilber, teachers.

The names of Thomas I. McNair, Joseph T. Lafferty, Peter Eckley, and G. W. Freson, teachers, appear on the record of the April meeting, 1853. The census of children under twenty-one years of age, filed October 1, 1853, shows 176 in the town; 37 in district No. 1, 92 in district No. 2, and 47 in district No. 3. Jane E. Lockwood and Martha Cole appear on the roll of teachers.

January 7, 1854, an election held at the school-house in district No. 2, resulted in the choice of Christian Harshbarger, R. H. Spicer, and Lafayette Chidester for trustees of schools.

April 1, 1854, teachers' roll shows the names of N. P. Smith in district No. 1, C. E. Cox in district No. 2, and Peter Eckley in district No. 3.

June 3, 1854, a meeting was held at the house of A. E. Doty, in district No. 1, to organize the district, which was done by electing A. E. Doty, James E. Fenton, and R. R. Cox, school directors.

August 24, 1854, a strip one mile wide on the east side of district



No. 1, extending from the south line of the township to North Pope creek was attached to Oxford school district in Henry county.

October, 1854, the trustees' census showed two hundred and fifty-one children in the town. In the part attached to Oxford district there were twenty children. District No. 1 had 50; No. 2 had 134; No. 3 had 47.

April, 1855, district No. 2 was divided into three districts, and the number of all the districts changed. District No. 1 comprised Secs. 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 23 and 24. No. 2 included Secs. 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 21 and 22. No. 3 took Secs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 19 and 20. No. 4 was comprised of the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Secs. 19 and 20, and Secs. 29, 30, 31 and 32, to which was attached Secs. 25 and 36, and the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 35 in township 14 N., R. 2 W. District No. 5 included the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Secs. 21, 22 and 23, and Secs. 26, 27, 28, 33, 34 and 35; leaving the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 24, and Secs. 25 and 36 attached to Oxford district.

April 23, 1855, the first tax for general school purposes was levied by the trustees at the rate of forty cents on the one hundred dollars on all taxable property and real estate.

October, 1855, the number of children in the town two hundred and sixty, divided by district as follows: 1st, 29; 2d, 75; 3d, 39; 4th, 46; 5th, 56; and fifteen in the part attached to Oxford.

March, 1856, James Bridger was reappointed treasurer and directed to procure five well bound books for the use of the board of school trustees. The record book of this set not being attainable there is no more official history of the schools until we come down to more modern times, or until 1866.

In 1856 the people in district No. 3 wanted a school, but had no school-house. Mr. Wilshire Calkins being very anxious to have a school, vacated the bedroom in the southwest corner of their house, nine feet square, and in this room schools were taught during the summer of 1856, 1857-8; the attendance ranging as high as fifteen and sixteen pupils. The furniture consisted of slab benches placed against the four walls of the room, the teacher having standing room in the center where she could reach any scholar in the room without leaving her place. Here Miss Olive Atwater, sister of our whilom county superintendent, S. B. Atwater, taught in 1856. One Friday afternoon there were to be some rhetorical exercises in the school, and Miss Atwater invited Mrs. Calkins to be present. Mrs. Calkins had provided an outside door to the room so that the school need not pass through the house. To this door Mrs. Calkins went at the appointed time, and thinking there was so little room inside concluded to remain



*A. J. Sweetser*





- on the outside and look in. After standing some time with one foot on the ground and one resting on the threshold she removed the foot from the threshold to the ground to change position. Feeling something yield under the pressure of her foot she continued to bear her weight on the other foot, and being very much interested at the time in the exercises progressing within stood some seconds unthoughtfully rolling the object back and forth under her foot. When at last she thought about what she was doing she concluded to see upon what she was standing. Looking down, judge of her surprise at seeing a very large rattlesnake stretched at full length beneath her feet, and apparently enjoying the novel petting of which it was the recipient. Mrs. Calkins did not continue the amusement, however, and without even awaiting an invitation she very expeditiously took the floor. No reporter being present, however, her speech cannot be given the readers of this history.

From the small beginning reported above, the schools of this township have grown until the number of school children in the township, as shown by the directors' census of 1881, is 504, and \$3,722.51 is the amount of money expended for school purposes during the past year.

#### CHURCHES.

The first preaching in this township was at the cabin of James Bridger, early in the forties, by Rev. Samuel T. Burr, of the Methodist Episcopal church, at that time on what was known as the Mercer circuit, which included all of this county and part of Rock Island, Knox and Warren counties. It took the minister a month to make the circuit. Elder Joseph Jones, of the Predestinarian Baptist church, also used to preach occasionally at the cabins of the early settlers, and his "Boys—ah! come in off the fence—ah, and hear Father Jones—ah, preach the gospel—ah, to the heathen—ah," is still fresh in the memory of many of the old settlers.

But the first church organization made in the township was the Wesleyan Methodist class formed at Hopewell in the spring of 1848. The church was organized first at Oxford in August, 1847, by Rev. C. H. Drake as the First Wesleyan Methodist Church of Oxford, but the membership was mostly resident of this township, and the class was formed at Hopewell as part of the Oxford church. When first organized this church formed part of the Farmington circuit, afterward divided, and the new circuit of Abingdon was formed, which included the Oxford church. Some years later Abingdon circuit was divided, and the new circuit of Oxford was formed. Since then both the Farm-



ington and Abingdon circuits have ceased to exist, but the Oxford circuit continues in a prosperous condition.

Prior to 1861 this church was served by the following pastors: C. H. Drake, B. F. Haskins, R. F. Markham, and J. M. Snyder. March 25, 1865, Hopewell and Hamlet churches were united in one circuit called Hopewell circuit, which arrangement continues to the present time. This circuit also includes Bethel church in Greene township. The ministers in charge following Rev. Snyder have been L. N. Stratton, J. A. McGillora, H. T. Bessie, Milton Smith, A. R. Brooks, and U. D. Lathrop, with Rev. Hugh Breckenridge as associate pastor with Mr. Lathrop at present.

The original membership of this church, including those who united with the church prior to 1860, before which time no record was kept of the dates of union with the church, were Govert S. Fleharty, Margaret Fleharty, James Durston, Philadelphia Durston, Nelson and Rebecca Chidester, Anna Smith, Martha K. Bridger, William D. Fleharty, Nancy Goodman, Mary T. Underwood, Harriet Woodhams, Martha Shaw, Maria Smith, Laird and Melinda Bean, Walter Goodrich, John Greenman, Catherine Braught, Erastus and Louisa Smith, Margaret J. Fleharty, and Margaret E. Roberts.

In 1870 this church erected a neat building at Hopewell about 32×48×18 feet dimensions at a cost of about \$2,500, upon which they have since expended about \$500 more. It was dedicated September, 1871.

In January, 1856, a church was organized at Oak Ridge by the United Brethren. The organization was effected by Rev. George Weaver, the first class-leader being James Meadows, and steward, Henry Birdwell. Besides the above-named officers the original membership included John and Jane Meadows, John and Mary Shroyer, Asa and Atlanta Streeter, Samuel Young, Julia Stevens, Adison Buckley, Cynthia Birdwell, and Rebecca Meadows. This church has no building, having used the Oak Ridge school-house for their meetings.

*Zion Methodist Episcopal Church.*—This class was organized in 1858, with Christian Harshbarger as class-leader, which office he held continuously until 1879, when he was succeeded by J. Arthur Garrett, who is the present leader. Thus has this class been led during its twenty-four years' existence by two leaders. There is no record obtainable of the original members of this class, but its present membership is twenty-two. In 1870 the class built a small, plain church in the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, which they use for their public exercises, though it has never been entirely finished.

*The Church of Christ*, of Oak Ridge, was organized May 21, 1865, by Rev. E. Fisher. The original membership comprised James and Martha Marford, Rebecca Shoyer, Thomas and Matilda Hill, Louisa Braught, Edna Watson, Mary J. Bunyan, Martha J. Thompson, James and Mary A. Meadows, Mary A. Miller, Levi and Margaret J. Spencer, and Mary Roosa. James Marford and James Meadows were the first elders, and Thomas Hill the first deacon. In 1873 the society was removed to New Windsor and reorganized there by Rev. T. J. Burton. The society here purchased a church building of the Presbytery of United Presbyterian church. This building was the first church edifice erected in the township, having been built in 1867. This removal proved disastrous to the society; the members living south and west of Oak Ridge, being too far away from the church, the society lost membership and became too weak to pay for the church they bought, so it reverted to the United Presbyterian Presbytery, and the Church of Christ ceased to exist.

The *First Congregational Church*, of New Windsor, was organized October 11, 1870, by W. W. Allen, Sarah A. Allen, William D. Fleharty, Mary C. Fleharty, Alice Barnes, Mary Ann Mayo, Florence C. Byrnes, Delia A. Hammond, and Charlotte Goold, as members, assisted by the Rev. L. F. Waldo, W. J. Beecher, R. B. Guild, B. F. Haskins, and A. R. Mitchell, pastors respectively of the First Congregational churches of Oneida, Galesburg, Galva, Victoria and Viola, with deacons M. C. Metcalf, and R. C. Sexton, as delegates, Rev. L. F. Waldo, moderator, and Rev. W. J. Beecher, scribe. W. W. Allen was elected clerk. Since the organization there have been eighty-four members admitted to the church, making a total membership of ninety-three during the little more than eleven years since the first organization. October 22, 1870, W. W. Allen was elected deacon, and William D. Fleharty, treasurer. Rev. Cyrus H. Eaton, the first pastor, began his labors April 30, 1871. The society built a small but very nice church during the year 1872, which was completed in the spring of 1873, at a cost of \$2,381.64, and dedicated May 25, 1873. T. B. Mayo, A. J. Streeter, and William D. Fleharty were the building committee. The pastorate of Rev. C. H. Eaton ceased November 1, 1874. Rev. B. F. Haskins acted as supply until the Rev. J. A. Waterworth began his labors, May 30, 1875. He continued to serve as pastor until June 1, 1878, and was succeeded by the present incumbent, Rev. R. L. McCord, who began his labors in January, 1879.

The *United Presbyterian Church*, of New Windsor, was organized in Oxford, Henry county, August 10, 1866, by Joseph M. and Nancy H. Christy, Thomas R., Catharine and Elizabeth McMiller, Margaret



A. Hogue, Elizabeth McLaughlin, Thomas H. and Sarah Brown, William H. and Margaret Kerr, Sarah Surpluss, Nancy Epperson, Thomas and Eliza M. Ramsey, John M. and Sarah A. Christy, and Stephen and Isabella Woodburn. The first elders were Joseph M. Christy and William H. Kerr. In 1867 this society built the first church edifice erected in the township of New Windsor. After a four years' struggle this society was dissolved by the Presbytery, some of its members think unjustly.

The *New Windsor Methodist Episcopal Church* was organized in 1868, under the charge of Rev. Peter S. Garretson, this being his first appointment, he having traveled one year previously on the Orion circuit as supply. Rev. W. B. Carithers received his appointment to this circuit in 1869, during which year the class procured a lot and purchased a building 26×40 feet that had been built for a school-house and converted it into a house of worship. This building the class still uses as its church. Rev. Theodore Hoagland was placed in charge of this class in 1870 and was continued two years. The preachers in charge since Rev. T. Hoagland have been Revs. William Lieber, U. Z. Gilmer, A. Myers, J. E. Taylor, two years; Geo. Miller, John McCord, and J. D. Calhoun, two years. The class organized in 1868, with a membership of eight, John Coleman, Elizabeth Coleman, Lovina Coleman, Samuel Coleman, Rev. John Abbott, Alice Abbott, W. A. Buckley, and Mary Buckley.

The present membership of the class is forty-five. The church is out of debt and in a flourishing condition.

The *Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church*, of New Windsor, was organized May 24, 1869, with Carl A. Johnson, Tetes Falk, and John M. Blad, as trustees, and Carl A. Johnson, C. Bjorkengren, Carl Adolf Falk, and Carl Falk, as deacons. G. A. Falk, secretary. August 23, 1869, the society decided to build a church edifice, which it did that fall, erecting a building 28×60×20 ft. dimensions, which rests on a stone foundation three and a half feet above the surface of the ground. This building cost \$6,726.70. The society has a good commodious parsonage also, which cost about \$1,500, and a cemetery where it buries its dead exclusively.

It has had three pastors since its organization: S. T. A. Lindahl, T. N. Sannquist and the present pastor, N. T. Winquist, who has been in charge since April, 1879. The latter gentleman being a fine scholar and a very intelligent man. He was born in Stockholm, Sweden, November 9, 1840, and received his education there, coming to America in 1867. He took a course at the Swedish Theological Seminary at Paxton, Illinois, since removed to Rock Island, Illinois.

To his other scholarly attainments he adds a knowledge of the Hebrew language. This society has a membership of 280 communicants, and 160 children, which it regards as members, making a total membership of 440.

The village of New Windsor was originally laid out in 1857 by W. T. Hammond, on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 13, and was expected to be a station on the Great Western Air Line railway, which was to be a trans-continental line spanning the country from Philadelphia to San Francisco. But the financial collapse of that year served a perpetual writ of mandamus upon the construction of many great lines of railway. The railroad was not built, and the seed that was to produce New Windsor failed to germinate. In 1868 the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, by a series of manipulations known to railroad magnates, came into possession of the franchises, right of way, etc., of the American Central railroad, which was the successor of the Great Western Air Line, and proceeded to build and equip the road from Galva to New Boston, having it ready to operate in the spring of 1869 as a branch to its main line. With the building of the railroad, New Windsor sprang into being as if by magic, so rapid was its growth.

On August 2, 1869, the people decided by a vote of thirty-four to seven to incorporate their town. On August 14, A. J. Moore, J. H. Epperson, P. Casler, E. L. Larkin and G. W. Gregg were elected the first board of trustees, and Joseph M. Christy the first police justice.

At an election held August 1, 1870, the people of the town of New Windsor voted to issue \$10,000 in the bonds of the town to the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis railroad, when said railroad was completed and a depot built in the incorporation. This measure was carried by a vote of forty-three to fourteen. As the conditions were never complied with the bonds were not issued. The road was built three miles east of New Windsor, and Alpha came into being at the crossing of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy branch.

April 19, 1878, the town voted thirty to twenty-two to organize as a village under the general incorporation law of the state.

The present board of trustees are: W. H. Gladman, president; R. B. Robinson, J. A. Maxwell, W. C. Cole, C. Shaw, and S. T. Samuelson; S. C. Whitecomb, village clerk.

This village enjoys the distinction of having the only telescope for astronomical purposes in this part of the country. Mr. Edgar L. Larkin having erected an observatory here mounting a six inch equatorial, made by Alvin Clark & Sons.

February 3, 1877, the state auditor issued a certificate of organiza-



tion granting twenty-five years life to the "Rivoli Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company," with its business office in New Windsor, and authorized to transact business in its line in the townships of Rivoli, Richland Grove, North Henderson, Greene, and Suez, in this county, and Oxford township, in Henry county.

The company organized with thirty charter members, whose aggregate policies amounted to \$60,000. The first board of directors were: S. B. Shumway, W. S. Fleharty, H. H. Roberts, A. P. Petrie, T. D. Merryman, N. P. Smith, J. M. Merryman, B. Kasenberg and T. S. Wilson. The officers were: A. P. Petrie, president; N. P. Smith, secretary, and T. D. Merryman, treasurer.

The last annual report of the secretary, January, 1882, shows the total number of policies in full, 164, covering \$178,468. The present officers of the company are: S. B. Shumway, president; Orson Jones, secretary, and T. D. Merryman, treasurer.

*Oxford Lodge, No. 367, A.F.A.M.* was granted a dispensation October 18, 1860, by the grand master of the state, to open a new lodge U. D., in Oxford, in Henry county. The lodge worked U. D., until October 16, 1861, it received its charter and number from Grand Master Ira A. W. Buck. Its first officers were: Paul Hahn, W.M.; Robert Detheridge, S.W.; Wm. Fleharty, J.W.; Samuel Wilson, Treasurer; M. S. Shephard, Secretary; Thomas Robertson, S.D.; George Gale, J.D.; Samuel Epperson, Tyler.

The charter members were P. W. Epperson, Thomas Robertson, Samuel Wilson, S. C. Moberly, J. D. Kennedy, J. M. Herbert, M. S. Shephard, Joshua Bruner, and N. McCombers. The lodge removed to and held its first meeting in New Windsor July 12, 1870. It owned its hall in Oxford, which it sold to S. B. Shumway, and in September, 1870, bought its present hall and undivided half interest in the lot on which it stands of J. A. Maxwell. It is in good financial condition and numbers among its members some of the foremost and best men in the community, ranking as one of the best working lodges in the country. It has had on its roll the names of over 130 members, its present active membership being forty-six. During its twenty-one years' existence the following eight members have filled the office of Worshiptful Master: Paul Hahn, two years; R. Detheridge, four years; S. B. Shumway, six years; M. Colley, J. M. Timberlake, A. D. Underwood, two years; A. P. Petrie, two years; and R. S. Petrie, three years. The present officers of the lodge are: H. H. Roberts, W.M.; B. F. Brooks, S.W.; J. F. Cox, J.W.; W. W. Parsons, Treasurer; A. P. Shroyer, Secretary; A. Olson, S.D.; A. G. McMullen, J.D.; R. Blair, Tyler.

A chapter of the Eastern Star was recently organized in connection with this lodge, having eighteen charter members, seven of whom are women. Its officers are: Mrs. Jennie Petrie, W.M.; Mrs. Lizzie McMullen, W.A.; A. P. Forgie, W.T.; Mrs. Martha Veeder, Treasurer; C. F. Peterson, Secretary.

*New Windsor Lodge No. 518, I. O. O. F.*, was organized June 3, 1873, by Dept. G. M. James Kelly. Charter members were: J. B. Armstrong, A. A. Willett, W. W. Jobes, W. H. Gladman, and Samuel Adams. Its first officers were: J. B. Armstrong, N.G.; W. H. Gladman, V.G.; Samuel Adams, Secretary; A. A. Willett, Treasurer. Its roll shows a total membership of ninety-five since its organization, with a present active membership of twenty-six. It owns a hall over the drug store of A. J. Rosenbaum and the undivided half of the lot on which it stands. The hall was built in the fall of 1879. The lodge occupied its hall the first time November 20, 1879. Its present officers are: Dr. F. D. Rathburn, N.G.; H. Higley, V.G.; B. F. Brooks, Secretary; D. Harkness, Treasurer; W. H. Kerr, Warden; John Olson, Cond.; James Ulam, Chap.; J. E. Gould, D.D.G.M.

The office of Noble Grand has been held by S. Adams, two terms; W. H. Gladman, two terms; A. J. Smith, W. S. Coe, J. L. David, H. J. Piper, J. E. Gould, J. L. McNaghten, W. H. Kerr, A. B. Firkins, James Ulam, two terms; J. N. Cox, and B. F. Brooks.

There are four cemeteries in this township.

*The Woodhams Cemetery* on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N. W. of Sec. 21, covers two acres, which was set apart for that purpose by Mr. William Woodhams during his life and afterward deeded to the township by the family. Mrs. W. was the first one buried in this cemetery, which contains the remains of several of the township's pioneers.

*The Cooper Cemetery* on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 30, the property of Richard Cooper, was started as a private cemetery by the Cooper family, and is occupied mostly by members of that family and connections.

*The New Windsor Cemetery*, on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 12, was donated by the late William F. Petrie, one of the proprietors of the village, and is on a beautiful rolling site, and is being rapidly improved by trees and flowers, which must soon render it very attractive.

*The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery*, in the village of New Windsor, near the southeast corner of section 12, and separated from the church by a street, is the property of that church and designed exclusively for the use of members of that church.

The following were the first township officers elected after the county went into township organization in 1854: supervisor, R. R.



Cox ; town clerk, James Bridger ; assessor, L. Chidester ; collector, N. Chidester ; justice of the peace, C. Harshberger.

The following is the list of town officers to date, with the number of terms that each held:

*Supervisor*.—R. R. Cox, two years ; Daniel Jones, two years ; A. J. Streeter, five years ; John W. Mills, two years ; N. P. Smith, four years ; T. G. Woodhams ; A. P. Petrie, nine years ; W. D. Fleharty, two years ; J. G. Sexton, three years.

*Town Clerk*.—James Bridger, twelve years ; J. Lyman Smith, two years ; A. P. Petrie ; C. F. Durston, four years ; Joseph M. Christy, four years ; S. L. Durston ; A. J. Smith ; T. B. Mayo, three years ; J. W. Peterson.

In twenty-nine years nine persons have filled both of these offices. One of J. G. Sexton's terms is fractional, having been appointed to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of A. P. Petrie.

*Assessor*.—L. Chidester ; N. P. Smith, four years ; Wm. Pitman ; S. B. Shumway, two years ; C. F. Durston, three years ; J. L. Smith, three years ; H. R. West ; Joseph M. Christy, two years ; A. J. Smith ; W. C. Cole ; J. B. Longley, eight years ; Ira G. Bridger.

*Collector*.—N. Chidester ; Chas. E. Cox ; H. R. West, eight years ; Orson Jones ; J. Menold ; T. G. Woodhams, four years ; J. B. Smith ; E. B. David ; C. S. Smith, two years ; Sidney Durston ; W. B. Cullison ; W. W. Jobes ; Ira G. Bridger ; S. L. Durston ; W. W. Allen ; T. B. Mayo ; Geo. W. Gregg ; W. W. Parsons ; O. Roberts ; Royal Chidester ; W. W. Watson ; H. L. Loomis.

*Justice of the Peace*.—Term of office is four years : C. Harshberger, two terms ; Peter Eckley ; R. R. Cox ; John B. Longley, three terms ; J. W. Peterson, two terms ; M. F. Whipp ; J. Lyman Smith ; James Meadows ; John Christy ; C. F. Durston, two terms ; M. F. Postlewait ; Joseph M. Christy ; W. C. Cole ; W. W. Parsons, three terms ; J. G. Sexton, two terms.

In 1865 the town auditors levied a tax of \$2.60 on the \$100 valuation for a bounty tax. The total amount expended for fifteen volunteers to fill the quota of this township was \$7,940.75, of which \$3,620 was raised by subscription.

In 1854 the first assessment under township organization showed that there were in the township 163 horses, 405 cattle, 5 mules, 226 sheep, 649 hogs, 45 wagons and carriages, 39 clocks and watches ; moneys and credits \$779. The total personal property assessed was \$19,821 ; the total real estate assessed was \$35,238.29 ; total assessment, \$55,059.29.

The New Windsor Observatory, located at New Windsor, and

owned by Edgar L. Larkin, is an object of much interest. It was erected for astronomical purposes, and is provided with a telescope made especially for celestial observation. The diameter of the objective is six inches in the clear, and its focal length is eight feet ten inches. The observatory is in free telegraphic communication with the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D.C., and with the Howard College observatory at Cambridge, Massachusetts. The telescope is called an equatorial; that is, it rests on two strong, cast-iron axes, that have motions so adjusted that when the telescope is set on a star it will remain so, since it is revolving on axes that move as the earth does. The telescope and all its belongings are first-class, and it would be a pleasure to note all of its peculiarities and appliances, but space forbids more than the above mention.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

REUBEN H. SPICER, Sr., was born in the town of Kent, county of Litchfield, state of Connecticut, June 24, 1810. In 1819 his father removed to western New York, then a new country. The schools there at that day were of the frontier type, but such as they were Mr. Spicer had the privilege of attending from two to three months during the year. Such was the advantage he took of the limited opportunities that at the age of fourteen he was spoken of for a teacher. Daboll's arithmetic, Webster's spelling book, with writing, comprised the entire curriculum of the common school then, but through the partiality of one or two teachers and a Baptist minister, Mr. Spicer was enabled to go a little beyond the standard course and obtain an introduction to mathematics, geography and grammar. At the age of eighteen he left the home farm at his father's suggestion, and spent some time in southern New York and northern Pennsylvania, which being an older settled portion of the country, brought him in contact with a higher grade of society, and better opportunities to gratify his ardent desire for knowledge and self-improvement. One of the first steps taken by him was to form a temperance society of one, for at that time the use of liquor was almost universal, standing upon the sideboard of every well-to-do gentleman, and in the closets of poorer people; greeting the guest upon arrival and following his departure as a stirrup cup. Seeing the degradation and misery which too frequently resulted, especially among young men, from the use of intoxicating liquors, he resolved to deny himself the use, and faithfully did he adhere to that resolution, and now as he reviews his past life he does not hesitate to award to that resolve the credit for his being a better man and more useful citizen than he could have been with the associations of those who had



a greater fondness for liquor and smoke than for mental culture. After traveling considerably through the middle, some of the southern and eastern states, in the fall of 1831 he went to Michigan, the only new country then thought to be habitable, with the expectation of making it his home. He spent the winter in Ann Arbor, then a flourishing town with good society. Early next spring with a pony he started out and during the season traversed the territory in various directions, Indian trails being the substitute for roads. Indians were numerous and he often found them useful in mapping the geography of the country for him; with their ramrods tracing in the sand the course of trails, rivers, ravines and sloughs, and marking the crossings, all with an unerring accuracy that would have done honor to a learned professor. While stopping for the night at Bronson, now Kalamazoo, in the early summer, the people were aroused to great excitement by the arrival of a messenger announcing the breaking out of the Black Hawk war, and claiming to have been sent for aid to arrest the advance of the hostiles, which was represented to be rapid and not far distant. The people were panic stricken; old men and women traversed the streets wringing their hands, not knowing which way to turn for safety. Mr. Spicer's destination, Prairie Ronde, now Schoolcraft, led him directly toward the advancing foe, and he resumed his journey next morning against the earnest protests of the people of the village. He made the journey in safety, transacted his business, and, returning on the second day met the volunteers en route for the seat of war. Among them was every man from the Gull Prairie settlement, where he had been stopping, even Deacon Mills, the old man of the settlement, with whom Mr. Spicer had been boarding. By taking his place in the ranks Mr. Spicer induced the deacon to return to his home, and thus he was led into making a campaign in the Black Hawk war. With the desire for a higher education as strong as ever, he returned east in the fall of 1832, and at the age of twenty-two began that course of education that most young men now finish before that age. For two years he applied himself with untiring assiduity to his studies. In the spring of 1835 he again started west, this time with Texas as his objective point, that state being engaged at that time in the struggle to free itself from Mexican rule. Arrived at Cincinnati he found the funds too low to proceed farther, so crossed over to Kentucky and procured a situation in a school and began to teach. He applied himself with such diligence in his new profession that he soon found himself at the head of one of the most flourishing local schools of the state. Two years of such intense application told upon his health, and he was forced to give up his school. In the spring of 1837 he married Miss

Sophia Whitehead, of Covington, Ky., who was a native of London, England, and they started at once for Illinois. Arrived at Peoria he found speculation a mania, corner lots selling far up in the thousands. After inspecting the country about Peoria, he proceeded up the river to Peru, thence to Aux Plaines and Chicago. While stopping with a brother at Aux Plaines he incidentally heard of a wonderfully fertile country bordering on the Mississippi south of Rock river. A place where a man of small means had a chance to become the peer of his neighbor with no greater means. Chancing to meet a former acquaintance from the east, he started for the new Eldorado on foot, there being few inducements then for even stage lines to traverse the trackless prairies. After viewing the country he purchased a claim that is now embraced within the limits of his farm. He returned to his claim with his wife in July. The improvements on the claim consisted of two acres broken and a log cabin erected, 14×16 feet dimension, with a place cut for a door and a fire-place, and a place 6×8 feet in one corner covered by a puncheon floor. Mr. Spicer, writing of this cabin, says: "This domicile had its conveniences. First, it was well ventilated, then the open door and fire-place made ample provision for the easy ingress and egress of itinerant dogs and prowling wolves, the latter being much the more numerous." Speaking of these times Mr. Spicer remarked that "Political organizations at this time had not disturbed the unity of the settlements. In 1838 the first breeze, faint, but yet perceptible, swept over these prairies. In 1840 the invader arrived and the two parties, democrat and whig, for the first time measured their strength." Mr. Spicer was a democrat, and though he foresaw that the probabilities were against that party acquiring a permanent ascendancy, he preferred to be right in his own estimation rather than yield his opinion to expediency. In 1841 he was sent as delegate to the state convention; the first delegate of either party from the county to a state convention. He found some difficulty in making the geographical location of the county known. In answer to questions as to its whereabouts, he replied that "Time would make it known as one of the first counties of the state." This was received with very incredulous smiles. He there formed the acquaintance of many of the prominent men of the state, which became a source of much pleasure to him in after years. In 1843 he was elected to the legislature from the district composed of the counties of Mercer and Knox. In 1848 he was put in nomination for the state senate for the district composed of Mercer, Rock Island, Henry, Knox, Warren and Henderson counties. The canvass of that year was the most spirited in this section up to that time; Gov. Joseph B. Wells and Col. E. D. Baker, candidate for congress,



participated. By the defection of a small portion of his party in Knox county he was defeated. This virtually closed his political career, as impediments beyond his control prevented his taking any further part in that direction. Yet in 1851, without his consent or knowledge even, he was again put in nomination for the same office, to fill a vacancy. His business arrangements were such then that he could not accept it and took no part in the canvass. He has always been an earnest advocate of the public schools, laboring officially and individually for their improvement, having served over twenty years as a school officer in his district and township. At the breaking out of the rebellion he was among the first to advocate its suppression, believing that the union must and should be preserved. Loss of hearing has for many years been a serious obstacle to the transaction of business, and still greater to the enjoyment of social intercourse, for which he is so eminently qualified, and from which he would derive such great pleasure. Naturally of a studious disposition, this deprivation has caused him to turn more of his attention to books, and especially in that greatest of all books, the book of nature, where he finds his greatest solace. His father was a man of more than ordinary energy, and had executive faculties of a high order. Starting with a very imperfect education, he made his way through life a success. Frequently having large business operations under his supervision, he won the confidence of an extended circle of friends. He held many of the local offices of his county, and when over sixty years of age removed from New York to the vicinity of Lawrence, Kansas, for the benefit of his younger children. The climate and change seemed to affect his health, but he lived to reach nearly four score years. His grandfather gave his services to his country during the entire period of the revolutionary war. His grandmother resided at New London, Connecticut, at the time Arnold invaded that place, but was one of those who escaped to the hills in the rear of the place. Mr. Spicer's first claim and residence was on the S. E. of the S. E. of section 25, in Greene township; his present residence was not built until 1841, and is on the N. W. of the S. W. of section 30, in Rivoli township. Of the ten children, nine are living: Sarah A. (wife of C. V. Shove, Viola, Illinois); S. Augusta (wife of Wm. C. Garrett, farmer, Rivoli township); E. Levis (member of Co. H, 84th Ill. Vol. Inf., was mortally wounded at the battle of Stone river, Tennessee, and was buried in the cemetery at Nashville); Talbut T. (farmer, married daughter of Elihu Rathbun, lives near Chariton, Iowa); Charles F. (senior partner of firm of Spicer & Gilmore, dealers in agricultural implements, Aledo, Illinois); Lucy A.; Reuben H., Jr. (married to Laura C., youngest daughter of L. W. Conger, now of Putnam

county, Missouri); Franklin P.; Minnie I. (wife of John L. Stewart, farmer, Rivoli township); and Mary E.

HON. ALEXANDER P. PETRIE was born at Rosendale on the Hudson, in Ulster county, New York, August 31, 1837. He came to Illinois with his father's family in 1844, via the lakes to Chicago, and thence by wagon to Richland Grove township, arriving at the house of Samuel Clark, one of the pioneers of that township, June 6, 1844, the next day after the great tornado that had blown from their foundations the McMullen and Wilcox houses, the only two houses then on the prairie south of Edwards creek. His youth was spent on the farm with only the very limited advantages for education afforded by the common schools of that day. He afterward took a course in a commercial school at Chicago. On August 9, 1862, he enlisted in Co. C, 112th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and at the company organization was elected orderly sergeant, was mustered into the United States service as second lieutenant, at Peoria, September 22, 1862, went with his regiment to Covington, and thence to Lexington, Kentucky, where he wintered; went with a detachment from his regiment in the summer of 1864, on Saunder's raid into east Tennessee, destroying railroads and confederate supplies. Some of his command were captured near Cumberland Gap, but he escaped. Reaching Lancaster, Kentucky, they celebrated July 4, 1863, there, and afterward rejoined his regiment at Danville, Kentucky; was at the siege of Knoxville, Tennessee, and at Kelly's Ford, east Tennessee. January 27, 1864, he was wounded by a shot in both legs during a cavalry engagement. For his wound he received a furlough for two months and visited his home. He rejoined his command, then a part of Gen. Sherman's grand army, rendezvoused near Chattanooga, Tennessee, in the spring of 1864, taking part in that wonderful hundred days' campaign which resulted in the fall of Atlanta, his command being in the Twenty-third Army Corps under Gen. Schofield. He commanded his company after the battle of Resacca, in the spring of 1864, until after the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864, in which his brother, Edward R., a member of his company, was killed and borne from the field by Lieut. Petrie in person. He was also with his command in the right wing of the army under Gen. George H. Thomas, when Gen. Hood received his final defeat at Nashville. His command having been sent to Fort Fisher after the battle of Nashville, to take part with Gen. Sherman in the Carolina campaign, he joined it at Kingston, North Carolina, in March, 1865. He was mustered out at Greensboro, North Carolina, June 20, 1865, as first lieutenant, reaching home on July 9, following. August 28, 1862, Mr. Petrie united in marriage with Miss Alice, daughter of Dr.



T. S. Petrie, probably a distant relative, as both parties trace their lineage back four or five generations to one James Petrie, gardener and florist, Forest, Elginshire, Scotland. Miss Alice was born in Liverpool, England, April 1, 1839, and came to America with her parents in 1840, via New Orleans and the river, to Peoria, Illinois, settling first at Trivoli, in Peoria county, thence moving to Brimfield, and thence to Rivoli, Mercer county. Mr. and Mrs. P. have four children, two sons and two daughters. The oldest, Maggie, being now in attendance at St. Mary's school, Knoxville, Illinois. In the spring of 1867 Mr. Petrie was elected supervisor for Rivoli township, to which office his neighbors continued to call him until he had served them ten years. He has been an active member of the republican party ever since his majority, but not in the roll of an office seeker, the offices having sought him. In 1880 his party called on him to represent the twenty-second senatorial district in the house of representatives of the Illinois legislature, which position he fills with as much honor to himself and his constituents as any of the new members of that body. Mr. T. is a member of the Congregational church, of New Windsor, and of Oxford Lodge, No. 367, A.F.A.M., of New Windsor, of which lodge he was W.M. for two years. His farm, consisting of 560 acres, lies near the village of New Windsor; his residence, where he has lived since February, 1866, is on the southwest quarter section 12. The farm is in a high state of cultivation and has 1,600 rods of drain tile laid at present. His business has been farming and stock raising, and for a few years, he was engaged quite extensively in raising hedge plants. His father, William F. Petrie, was born at Forest, Elginshire, Scotland, April 19, 1803, and came to America in 1828, and was overseer several years for Commodore Stockton, of the United States navy, at his place, near Princeton, New Jersey. Here he married Miss Ann Regan, who was born in Ireland in 1809, and was at the time a nurse in the family of Commodore Stockton. Went from Princeton, New Jersey, to Rosendale, New York, and engaged in mercantile pursuits; then on to a farm in Oneida county, New York; thence to Illinois in 1844, settling on the southwest quarter section twenty-five, in Richland Grove township, Mercer county. In 1849 he crossed the plains of California, where he remained two years, most of the time plying his vocation as gardener, near San Francisco. While there he took the contract to grade Stockton street in the above named city. Having sold his farm in Richland Grove township, he bought land on sections 12 and 13, in Rivoli township, and moved on to the northeast quarter section thirteen, in 1857. He was one of the original proprietors of the village of New Windsor, part of the town plat being on the northeast of section 13. Mr. P.

had nine children, one daughter and eight sons, four dying in infancy and one, Edward R., killed in battle as mentioned before. The four survivors reside in and near New Windsor, viz: Mary C., (wife of W. D. Fleharty), Alexander P., Richard S., and Cornelius L. Mr. P. was an energetic, thorough going man in all that he undertook, being awarded the premium three successive years by the Mercer County Agricultural Society, for the best cultivated farm in the county. He died August 19, 1866, his worthy wife surviving him until September 10, 1874. Their remains are deposited with those of their heroic son, Edward R., in the village cemetery north of New Windsor, the site for which was donated by Mr. Petrie.

HON. ALSON J. STREETER, one of Mercer county's most prominent citizens, was born in Rensselaer county, New York, January 18, 1823. His father, Roswell Streeter, was born in Massachusetts in 1799, and his mother, Eleanor Kenyon, was born in Westerly, Rhode Island, August 20, 1798. There were six sons and two daughters the offspring of this union, of whom the subject of this sketch is the oldest, and the only one living in this county now. His sister, Mrs. Shumway, living in Oxford, Henry county, is the only member of the family living near him. Mr. Streeter came to Illinois in 1836, when only thirteen years old, with his father, who settled at that early day in what is now Lee Centre, Lee county, Illinois. His father died April 11, 1850, in Iowa, en route for California. His mother survived until June 8, 1871, when she died, in the seventy-third year of her age, at her son's residence near New Windsor. His youth was spent on the farm and in trapping, hunting and fishing, which were his favorite employments at that time and at which he was very successful. The furs and pelts of the wolf, mink, otter, muskrat, etc., being about the only medium of exchange obtainable at that time. He has treasured up many interesting incidents connected with his early pioneer life, when the settlers who had endured the hardships to which they were subjected at that early day were obliged to form societies for mutual protection, to prevent by the force of might the greedy speculator from entering their homes, which the settlers could not purchase, there being no money in the country with which to buy. He also relates how they used to burn charcoal and haul it fourteen miles to Grand Du Tour, on Rock river, where one John Deere (now of Moline plow fame) had a blacksmith shop with two forges in it. He would sometimes get fifty cents and sometimes a dollar in cash on his load, the balance would be taken in blacksmithing as it was needed. It was when making one of these trips that he first saw a steel plow that would scour, Mr. Deere having just begun



the manufacture of a diamond-shaped steel plow, the only plow then in use having a wooden mold-board, with a piece of iron fastened on the lower edge for a share. Returning home he reported to his father what he had seen, and they concluded they must have one of the new plows. So, taking a load of charcoal, he went to the shop and traded for a plow. Repairing to a neighboring sand-bank he hitched his oxen to the plow and drove, while Mr. Deere held the plow, to scour it, not having any implement to grind with at that time. While living in Lee county he attended two terms of school in an old log school-house. At the age of twenty-three, with an ardent desire to improve his education and \$12 of hard-earned savings in his pocket, he went to Galesburg to attend Knox college. By the industrious use of the frower and knife riving and shaving hard-wood shingles, he maintained himself two and one-half years at school. In 1849 he went overland to California and spent two years in the mines, returning in 1851. In 1853 he went across the plains with a drove of cattle, and repeated the trip again in 1854. On his return from this last trip he bought 240 acres of land in section 11, Rivoli township, to which he has continued to add until his farm at present spreads over 3,100 acres, about one-half of which is in pasture at present and on which he raises large numbers of hogs and cattle, having one of the finest herds of thoroughbred short horns in the county. Farming and stock raising has been his business, and although his private affairs have grown to such large dimensions of late years, he has always kept himself posted on the course of current politics, taking deep interest in everything affecting agriculture and education. Though having business interests that would seem to require all his time, he has always held himself in readiness to serve his neighbors in any position they have called upon him to fill. He has represented his town several years on the board of supervisors. In 1872 he was elected by the cumulative system the minority representative to the state legislature from the twenty-second senatorial district, composed of Knox and Mercer counties, serving two years as a member of the twenty-eighth general assembly to the satisfaction of his constituents and honor to himself. Serving on the committee on agriculture and education, he helped to shape all the legislation upon those two subjects, in which he takes so great interest. A democrat until about 1874, he deemed that neither of the two leading parties was serving the people's interests as it should, and since that time he has identified himself with the national greenback labor union party. Standing for that party as candidate for congress from the tenth congressional district in 1878, he received over 3,600 votes. Again in 1880, the candidate of the same party for governor of the



Yours Truly  
A. P. Petrie





state, he received 28,808 votes. He is always found on the side of the masses, battling against the encroachments of the great moneyed corporations, and believes most firmly in enforcing our railroad and warehouse laws. He is a member of the Congregational church of New Windsor, and is also a Royal Arch Mason. On his place is one of the curiosities of this section of country: a crows' roost. Near his house is a patch of brush land densely covered with a young growth of black oaks. In this the crows assemble every evening to roost, departing early in the morning on their daily foraging expeditions. When they are all congregated in the evening they cover about five acres, sitting so closely together that they completely cover the trees, making each a veritable *quercus niger*. Mr. Streeter says they were there when he came, and he does not see that they have either increased or diminished in number during the now nearly thirty years of his acquaintance with them. He does not allow them to be disturbed, and they have never done any damage on his place. He has never heard of but one other roost in the state, and that is in the southern part. He thinks his crows range over a circle whose radius is more than one hundred miles. During the brooding season they do not return to the roost, but as soon as the young can fly they take them there. His children, in the order of their ages, are: George A., Frank W., Mary, Nellie May, Fannie Rose, Minnie Grace, and Charles Dallas. The four last-named are children of his second wife (Susan Menold), to whom he was married in August, 1861. George A. married a daughter of Joshua Goddard, of Viola. Frank W. married a daughter of Samuel Park, near Viola, and now lives on the place, having charge of the farm and stock. Mary is the wife of Thomas Burling, and lives in Nebraska. Minnie Grace died January 23, 1882, from the effects of diphtheria, deeply mourned by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. She was a girl of more than ordinary promise, for whom a very brilliant future seemed just opening. February 22, 1882, Nellie May was married to Mr. Frank Crane, of Osco, Henry county, Illinois. Fannie Rose and Charles Dallas are all that remain at home. By energy and perseverance he has wrested from the soil his present ample means, and has earned a justly merited reputation for honor and probity that is worth more than money or lands. Mr. Streeter resides on his original purchase in section 11, two and one-half miles northwest of the village of New Windsor.

CORNELIUS L. PETRIE was born in Richland Grove township, in Mercer county, Illinois, September 25, 1849, son of William Petrie. [For family history see biography of Hon. Alexander P. Petrie]. His youth was spent on his father's farm in this county. October 6, 1880,



he married Sylvina B. Coleman, daughter of John Coleman, of this township, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1850. He then settled on his present place in the southeast of section 12, and has been engaged in farming. His farm comprises 215 acres in excellent cultivation. He and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church of New Windsor, near which village they live.

JOHN G. SEXTON, the subject of this sketch, though not one of the pioneers, has been prominently identified with the township during the comparatively short period of his residence here, which dates from the spring of 1868, when he came here from Ohio and settled on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E. of Sec. 7, this township, where he now resides in a good, commodious frame house, built in 1879, his farm comprising eighty acres. He has held numerous local offices in the township. Five years ago he was elected justice of the peace, and although he has been called upon to adjudicate several suits, brought before him on change of venue, he has not yet issued an original summons, having succeeded thus far in getting the parties to compromise or agree to an arbitration in all cases that have been brought to him to commence suit. In November, 1880, he was appointed supervisor vice A. P. Petrie, resigned. In 1881 he was elected to the same office, and reelected the spring of 1882. He was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, December 2, 1833. His father, Stephen Sexton, was born in Washington county, Tennessee, in 1801. His grandfather, Stephen Sexton, was an only son and was born in New Jersey in 1762, and went to Ohio in 1800 and bought a farm in Mahoning county, to which he removed his family in 1802. From the purchase of this farm in 1800 the deed to his son Stephen was the only transfer of the property until sold by the heirs in 1879. He died in 1856 when ninety-four years old. His grandfather's family consisted of four sons and three daughters, of whom one son only survives. His father married Miss Sarah Gibson, who was a native of Ohio. They had nine children, eight sons and one daughter, all of whom survive, one residing in Connecticut, one in Pennsylvania, one in Iowa, and the other five in Ohio. Mr. S. married Miss Eliza C. Hogg, in Ohio, April 29, 1856, born in that state March 25, 1837, her father, James Hogg, being a well known resident of Viola, Illinois, having been collector of his town for several years. They have had three children: James G., born in Pennsylvania December 20, 1857 (married Miss Nettie Jobes April 13, 1881), lives in Preemption township; Lizzie E., born March 10, 1860, died October 21, 1863; and D. Findlay, born August 20, 1866. In politics Mr. S. is republican. His educational advantages were confined to the common school.

SIDNEY DURSTON, the subject of this sketch, is the third son of

James and Philadelphia (Bridges) Durston, pioneers in this township, and was born here September 14, 1841. His oldest brother, Charles F., was born August 14, 1837, on section 36, in Greene, being the first birth in that township. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. D, 83d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and served with his command until it was mustered out after the close of the war. September 18, 1866, he married Miss Mary L. Edgerton, daughter of S. C. Edgerton, born in Galesburg, Illinois, May 2, 1843. In the spring of 1867 he settled on his farm in the northwest of section 10, which comprises 160 acres. Having no children, in March, 1880, they adopted two boys, Harry and Bert, twin sons of Henry J. Piper, who were born March 11, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. D. are members of the Hopewell Wesleyan Methodist church. In politics Mr. Durston is republican.

SAMUEL L. DURSTON, son of James Durston, was born in this township June 10, 1847, was brought up on his father's farm with such common school advantages as the country afforded, to which he added a course in a commercial school in Monmouth. April 23, 1874, he married Miss Emma Morton, who was born in Peoria county, Illinois, August 22, 1855. Her parents were natives of the Isle of Man. Her mother and one sister reside in Galva, Illinois, another sister in Aledo, Illinois, and a brother resides in Joliet, this state. They have two children, Lora, born March 19, 1875; and Jeanie, born April 19, 1880. They are members of the Wesleyan Methodist church of Hopewell, his father being one of the original members of the church when it was organized at Oxford in 1847. His farm consists of 100 acres and embraces the old homestead that his father improved forty years ago. In politics he is republican.

WILLIAM C. GARRETT was born in Knox county, Illinois, October 18, 1845, and came with his parents to this township in 1850. His father, James M., was born in Indiana in 1815, and came to Illinois with his father, George Garrett, as early as 1835, and settled near Abington, in Knox county; his older brothers, William F. and John S., having come to the state still earlier, being here to participate in the Black Hawk war in 1832. His mother (Mary M. Cullison) was born in Knox county, Ohio, August 4, 1824, and came to Knox county, Illinois, with her parents in the spring of 1842, settling first on Haw creek, near the present town of Gilson; moving to the vicinity of Victoria, in the same county, in 1845. She was married to James M. Garrett, in Knox county, in December, 1844. The subject of this sketch was married November 25, 1869, to Miss S. Augusta Spicer, daughter of Hon. R. H. Spicer, of this township. She was born in Greene town-



ship April 11, 1840. Until March, 1872, they lived in the old homestead with Mrs. M. M. Garrett, at which time they removed to a farm which they owned in section 16, this township. By partition and exchange in 1876 they came into possession of the old homestead again, where they now reside. His farm consists of 220 acres. They have three children: Georgia (born February 24, 1873), Mortimer S. (July 6, 1877), and E. Roy (January 8, 1880). They are members of Zion Methodist Episcopal church. William C. is the oldest of the family. His next brother, George, died when a youth; the next, J. Arthur, married Miss Lizzie Harbour, and lives on E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. E. Sec. 17, in this township. His only sister, M. Ella, who is a graduate of Hedding College, lives with her mother in Abington.

CLINTON SHAW. Among the pioneers to this county were Levi and Martha (Metzlar) Shaw, who settled in what was then called Berlin (now Swedona), May 31, 1836. The former was a native of Trenton, New Jersey, and the latter of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. They were married in Coshocton county, Ohio, February 22, 1831, and came thence to Illinois. Mr. Shaw was married twice. Almond, the only child by his first wife, is now a resident of Kansas, but was formerly a merchant at Swedona, in this county. He enlisted in Co. C, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., in 1862, and was made first lieutenant of his company, and afterward, upon the resignation of Capt. Shedd, he became captain of the company. By his second marriage Mr. Shaw had eleven children, six sons and five daughters, all of whom are living except the youngest daughter. Clinton was reared on the farm, with the common school advantages of that early day, taking his start in life September 8, 1843, at Berlin. When in his sixteenth year he was crippled by the accidental discharge of a shot-gun, the charge passing through his right arm, nearly severing it. Five years later he had the misfortune to lose the use of his left eye. He left the farm at the age of eighteen and clerked in a store. In 1865 he took a course in a commercial school in Chicago, after which he clerked three years for his brother Almond at Swedona, and then, with George W. Gregg as partner, became proprietor of the store. In 1870, having sold out his business, he began clerking for Stephens & Gibson, of New Windsor, becoming a partner in 1872 under the style of Gibson & Shaw, afterward becoming Gibson, Shaw & Halberg, from which latter firm he has just withdrawn, the spring of 1882. July 4, 1866, he married at Swedona Miss Ellen L. Bell, sister of J. D. Bell, since a prominent merchant of Woodhull. She was born near New Albany, Indiana, October 17, 1846, and came to Illinois in 1865. They have had four

children, three of whom are living: Minnie H., Genoa V., and Cleo N. Mr. Shaw is a member of the masonic order.

JOHN A. MAXWELL was born in Ireland May 22, 1835. Came to America in the fall of 1852. Lived one year in St. Louis and one year in Rock Island. Was traveling most of the time until his marriage with Mary J. Baker, born February 11, 1845, daughter of William Baker, of Swedona, in this county, who was a native of Pennsylvania, which event occurred January 1, 1867. He then established himself in mercantile business in Swedona. Two years later, when the railroad was completed to New Windsor, he removed to the latter place and continued the business until November, 1875, when he sold his store to C. Cole, who conducts it at the present time. Mr. Maxwell was raised on a farm until eighteen years of age, and owns a farm of 160 acres, the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 8, in Rivoli township. They have three children: James B. (born July 1, 1870), Flora J. (born December 1, 1873), and Grace G. (born October 16, 1876). Politically republican.

ANDREW J. ROSENBUM was born in Wythe county, Virginia, September 4, 1828. His father, Anthony Rosenbum, was also a native of Virginia, and emigrated to Kentucky about the year 1829, settling in Barren county. He moved thence to Monmouth, Illinois, in 1835, opening the first blacksmith shop in the place where he continued to work at his trade for fifteen years. He died in Monmouth in 1851. His mother, whose maiden name was Hoffman, had two brothers in Monmouth, who were wagon makers, and Mr. Rosenbum did their iron work. His mother died in Henry county in 1874. Mr. Rosenbum attended school ten years in the first school-house built in Monmouth, which stood on the present site of the Methodist church. The old school-house was lighted by two windows, one in the east and one in west; the bottoms of the windows being nearly as high as the top of the door. He remembers going to school there when he had to part the tall, blue stem grass that waved away above his head to make a path to reach the school-house. In 1852 Mr. Rosenbum crossed the plains to California, where he remained five years, returning to Illinois in 1857. After his return from California he located in Henry county, where he resided until September, 1862, when he enlisted in Co. G. 112th Ill. Vol. Inf. He was engaged in all the battles and skirmishes in which that regiment took part, and they were many. While operating as mounted infantry he had a horse shot under him at Philadelphia, Tennessee. After three years and three months' service he was mustered out at Goldsboro, North Carolina. After his return home from the army he resided in Oxford, in Henry county, until 1869, when he removed to New Windsor and engaged in the drug



business which he has continued to the present time. He had one brother, James, who died in 1876. At Oxford he married Sarah Criglar, who was born in Ohio in January, 1843. They have no children, but an adopted son. Is a member of Oxford Lodge, No. 367, A.F.A.M.; also of Horeb Chapter, No. 7, R.A. Masons; also of New Windsor Lodge, No. 578, I.O.O.F. In politics he is a democrat.

WILLIAM B. CULLISON was born in Knox county, Ohio, March 17, 1831. His father, Jeramiah Cullison, was a native of Maryland, and a farmer. He emigrated to Ohio in 1810, and there married Rebecca Coulter, who was a native of Pennsylvania. He moved to Illinois in 1842, settling on Haw creek, near Gilson, Knox county. In 1845 he removed to the vicinity of Victoria, in the same county. The subject of this sketch was engaged in farming until 1852, when he crossed the plains to California where he was engaged in mining and packing until 1856, when he returned to Illinois, arriving home in December of that year. In the spring of 1860 he again went to California where he remained until 1862, arriving in Illinois, on his return, in February. The following summer he enlisted in company E. 102d Ill. Vol. Inf.; was with the regiment through all its varied experiences until the 17th of July, 1864, at the Chattahoochie river in Georgia; he was sent to the hospital at Nashville, thence to Evansville, Indiana, thence to Quincy, Illinois, where he was discharged at the close of the war. September 16, 1868, he married Ellen Bradford, daughter of A. B. Bradford, of Greene township, this county, who was a native of Pennsylvania, but lived some time in Ohio before coming to Illinois. Her mother, Margaret Hall, was a native of Ohio, where Ellen was born January 11, 1840. After his marriage Mr. Cullison settled on a farm, the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.W. Sec. 21, in Rivoli township, to which he has added from time to time until his farm now comprises three hundred and twenty acres. In 1879 he built a new house, which is very finely finished, on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 27 where he now resides. The children are Sadie, born June 4, 1872, and Arthur, born May 9, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Cullison are both members of Zion Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Cullison is a member of Oxford Lodge, No. 377, A.F.A.M. Mr. Cullison engages quite largely in stock raising, feeding, and in buying and shipping stock.

J. WARREN REYNOLDS was born in Canada, June 30, 1840, and came to the United States with his parents in June, 1841, and settled near Lafayette, in Stark county, Illinois. Removed to Mercer county April, 1855, settling on the southwest of section 26, in Rivoli township, where he now resides, his farm comprising eighty acres. May 31, 1868, married Harriet E. Armstrong, of Berwick, Warren county, Illi-

nois, who died April 4, 1873. They had two children: a boy, Orvie E., born April 29, 1869, and a girl, who died in February, 1873. May 14, 1874, married Miss Alice Summers, daughter of Joseph Summers, of Viola, Illinois. She is a native of this state, born August 17, 1849. They have two children: Esther, born June 4, 1875, and Jessie B., born November 24, 1879. His father, Alanson Reynolds, was a native of Canada, and died here August 17, 1879, at the age of eighty-seven. His mother died September 10, 1879, at the age of seventy-seven. One brother, Peter Reynolds, lives in Kansas, and served in a Kansas regiment during the war, and carries in his person two bullets received from Price's men at Osawatomic, Kansas. In 1881 Mr. R. built a neat and commodious residence on his farm, where he can enjoy the fruits of his industry. Mr. R. can relate many amusing incidents connected with his early life in this state, having driven a team to Chicago in company with his father on several occasions, when it was common to haul wheat from this part of the country to that city. In politics Mr. R. is a democrat. He is also a member of Oxford Lodge, No. 367, A.F.A.M.

MATTHEW F. POSTLEWAIT was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, August 22, 1817. His father, John Postlewait, was also a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1776; came to Illinois in 1855, and died in February, 1861. Mr. P. spent his boyhood on the farm, but learned the trade of carpenter, at which he worked until he came west, and for a short time after his arrival in this state. August 24, 1841, he married Miss Mary J. Yocum, born in Pennsylvania, January 1, 1823, daughter of Jesse Yocum, of that state, who died in the spring of 1877. Mr. P. came to Illinois in 1845, by the way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, landing at Oquawka. It took four weeks to make the trip. His first settlement was on the northwest of section 28, in Suez township, where he continued to reside until 1857, when he sold his farm and removed to his present place, the southwest of section 26, in Rivoli township, where he has 134 acres. He also owns eighty acres in North Henderson township. For some time after he came here he did all his trading at Oquawka, but after Keithsburg was established, he transferred his trade to that place. Their children are: Hannah G., born August 15, 1842 (deceased); Calvin W., born October 8, 1843, now in mercantile business at Alexis; Martha E., born August 12, 1845 (deceased); John M., born April 21, 1848, on a farm in North Henderson township; William G., born December 20, 1850, farmer, lives in Missouri; Amy E., born April 8, 1853 (deceased); Jessie Y., born October 22, 1855, in hardware and grocery business in Cable, Illinois; Olivia B., born November 4, 1857; Blanche A., born



June 8, 1860, is one of Mercer county's successful teachers; and Ralph J., born April 13, 1864. The three last named reside at home. Mrs. P. is a member of the Congregational church, of New Windsor. Mr. P. is an old Jeffersonian democrat.

JOHN COLEMAN was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, July 24, 1824. His father, Samuel Coleman, was also a native of Pennsylvania, born in the year 1800, and died in the fall of 1875. His mother, Sarah Alvin, was of Irish descent, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1803, and still lives, six miles east of Victoria, in Knox county. His father came to Illinois in 1854, by wagon, from Pennsylvania. He raised a family of fourteen children, eight boys and six girls, of whom the subject of this sketch is the oldest. Twelve of these still live, seven boys and five girls. Two of the brothers live in Iowa; the rest all live in this State. In 1847 Mr. Coleman married Elizabeth Ghost, born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, in 1820, and died in 1875, in the fifty-fifth year of her age. They had four children: Vinie (wife of C. L. Petrie, of New Windsor), Samuel, Susan, and John G. In January, 1877, Mr. Coleman was again married to the widow of David Ramsey, *nee* Josie M. Gasney. Mrs. Coleman has three children: Maud Ramsey (twelve years old), Emma R. (ten years old), and Edith P. Coleman (born January 14, 1878. Mr. Coleman was brought up on a farm, and has always followed that avocation. His present farm contains 210 acres of the very best land in the township, and lies adjoining the plat of the village of New Windsor. In 1881 Mr. Coleman erected a fine large residence on his farm, which he did not get entirely finished, but expects to complete during the present season. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of New Windsor, he being one of its most active members and leader of the class for a number of years.

DR. EDWARD L. EMERSON was born in Keithsburg township, Mercer county, Illinois, August 18, 1846. His father, William S., and mother, Delilah Hurt Emerson, were both natives of Wayne county, Indiana, and settled in Keithsburg township, in this county, about the year 1842, on the place where they now reside. The family is composed of: Edward L., William A. (married and farming in Nebraska), Albert L. (married and farming near his father's), Thomas H., and Ida May. Edward L. was reared on his father's farm until the summer of 1862. When sixteen years old he enlisted in Co. C, 102d Ill. Vol. Inf., and shared in all the trials and helped to win all the glory won by that regiment. In 1863, while the regiment was stationed at Gallatin, Tennessee, he was sent with a squad as guard to a forage train. While on this duty, the squad was attacked by a large partisan

force of the confederates, and he and William Merritt, of company I of the same regiment, were captured at Epperson Springs, Tennessee, and sent to Libby prison, Richmond, Virginia. They were both exchanged the latter part of the summer, and Edward L. rejoined his regiment at La Vergne, Tennessee, in September, 1863. From that time until the final mustering out and discharge of the regiment at the close of the war, he was with the command, sharing in its weary marches and hard fought battles; and the latter were by no means few, as the old flag at Springfield will attest. After his return from the army he attended school one year at Keithsburg, and then took a special course of nine months at a select school taught in Ohio Grove township, giving three months to grammar, the same time to rhetoric and elocution, and the same to mathematics. In September, 1868, he married Laura Markee, daughter of Jesse Markee, of Ohio Grove township, by whom he has two children: Jesse W. (now thirteen years old), and May F. (nine years old). After his marriage, in 1868, he located on a farm near Millersburg. August 10, 1877, his wife died, and was buried in the cemetery at Aledo. After her death he resolved to fit himself for the practice of medicine. While carrying on his farm, he began a course of reading under Dr. W. B. Artz, of Joy, which he continued for two years, reciting twice each week. During the fall and winter terms of 1879-80, and the spring term of 1880, he attended Rush Medical College, Chicago. The summer of 1880 he spent in the office with Dr. Craig, of Aledo, finishing his course at Rush Medical College during the fall and winter terms of 1880-81, graduating February 22, 1881. He also took a special course under Prof. E. Fletcher Ingalls, on diseases of the throat and chest, and another under Prof. E. L. Holmes, on diseases of the eye and ear. March 23, 1881, he married Miss Ella M. Gailey, daughter of S. W. Gailey, of Aledo, and on March 26 located and began the practice of his profession in New Windsor. Is a member of the order of A.F.A.M., and also of the I.O.O.F.

DR. JOHN B. RATHBUN was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, October 12, 1820, and is son of Elihu Rathbun, who was born in the state of New York, September 8, 1794, and Eleanor Beatty, who was a native of Pennsylvania and related to the Darlings, of east Pennsylvania. Mr. Rathbun moved from New York to Pennsylvania in 1816, and there married Miss Beatty. After the death of his first wife he married Miss Sarah Towell, who is a native of Pennsylvania. During his residence in Pennsylvania he was engaged in farming and the ministry. In 1835 he came to Illinois, settling in what is now Bowling township, in Rock Island county, but for several years past has resided



in Viola, in this county. Mr. Rathbun's children by his first wife were: Adaline (deceased), John B., Margaret E., Bulina A., and Finlaw Darlington (deceased); by his second wife: Fitz W., Homer H. (who enlisted in the 9th Ill. Vol. Cav. and died in Missouri while in the service), Elihu, Phœbe and Isaac (who are twins), and Sarah (wife of T. T. Spicer, now living near Chariton, Iowa). Dr. Rathbun's youth was spent on his father's farm and in attending the common school of that day. He attended Alleghany college two years and then followed Prof. Griffith from that institution to Mercer academy, where he attended two years, working at intervals to pay his way. He then went south with Prof. Griffith and taught two years, reading medicine during the time under Dr. Terrell, of Black Hawk, Mississippi. He afterward completed his medical course at the Eclectic Medical college, Cincinnati, Ohio, graduating in 1847; began the practice of his profession in West Greenville, Pennsylvania, where, on September 17, 1848, he married Emeline J. Waugh, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1822, and a sister of the well known proprietor of Waugh's mill, at Richland Grove, in this county. June 1852 he moved to Rock Island, in this state, and practiced there until the spring of 1857, when he removed to Richland Grove, in this county. June 21, 1859, his wife died, leaving two sons, William W., and Frank Darlington. William W. was born in June 1850, and Frank D., in September, 1854. William W. studied law, and graduated at Union College of Law, Chicago. After practicing three years in Rock Island, his health became so impaired that he removed to New Windsor, in this county, and is now engaged in the drug business. He married Miss Ella Barge, daughter of William Barge, a leading lawyer of Dixon, her mother being a daughter of John Dixon, the well known pioneer of Lee county and founder of the city of Dixon. Frank D. graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1877, and from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1878, and served one year, after leaving the last named institution, in the Philadelphia hospital. He is now practicing in New Windsor, whither Dr. John B. Rathbun removed from Richland Grove, April 1878, and where he still resides to assist his son in his now large practice.

ISAAC BROOKS was born near Manchester, England, July 4, 1829. Came to the United States in May, 1849, and settled in Carbon county, Pennsylvania. Lived there five years, working in various coal mines. After traveling about the country for two years, he finally settled in this county in 1856. In the spring of 1857 he moved on to the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 2, Rivoli township, since which time he has added to his farm until he now owns 380 acres in this county and eighty acres in

Henry county. April 9, 1849, just before leaving England, he married Maria Ann Jul, who came to America with him and made him a faithful wife and helpmeet until her death, which occurred February 21, 1880, leaving no children. His father died in England when he was an infant, and his mother, who came to this country, died in Ohio. He has one brother, Thomas, living at West Brookfield, Stark county, Ohio, and another, George, who lives in Trego county, Kansas, the latter having a family of nine or ten children. December 21, 1880, he married Emma J. Peterson, who was born in Sweden, December 22, 1862, and came to America in 1874, with her father, Andrew Peterson, of Cable, this county. Mr. Brooks is a Master Mason, a member of Oxford Lodge, No. 367, A.F.A.M. Their only child Mary L., was born April 22, 1881.

VICTORIA C. M. TRACY was born near Cleveland, Ohio, January 28, 1847, daughter of John and Emeline C. (Hicks) Morris. Her father was born in Somersetshire, England, May 27, 1816, and came to America with his father in 1840, and settled near Cleveland, Ohio. March 1, 1846, he married Emeline C. Hicks, of Zanesville, Ohio, who was born in that state August 20, 1827. Her father was killed by robbers in Zanesville, leaving a brother (Thomas Hicks) in Kentucky, and a son (John) in Louisville, Kentucky. Her mother was Esther Black, of French descent, her family living near Philadelphia. Mrs. Tracy came to Illinois with her parents in 1851, by the lakes to Chicago, and thence by team to Mercer county, settling near Keithsburg. Five years later they moved to Warren county, and in 1865 returned to Mercer county, Mr. Morris buying a farm in section 9, in Greene township, where he resides now. His father died near Keithsburg in 1856, aged sixty-eight; and his mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Brewer, died in 1864, aged eighty-one years. April 22, 1869, Miss Victoria married Jonathan Tracy, of Rivoli township, their residence being on S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1. Mrs. Tracy has three children: Ida (born February 28, 1870), Baz. (May 1, 1872), and Fred. (August 13, 1874). May 26, 1878, Mr. Tracy died, since which time Mrs. Tracy has managed the affairs of the farm, consisting of 372 acres, with marked ability, taking high rank among the large and successful farmers of the county. Her business tact caused her neighbors to elect her school director of her district, which office she still holds. In 1871 Mr. Tracy built a large and elegant residence on his farm, where the family now reside, one and one-half miles north of the village of New Windsor. Jonathan Tracy was born in Mason county, Kentucky, November 25, 1830. His father (Vesey Tracy) and mother (Rachel Hayden) were natives of that state, and were married in 1828. In 1839 his mother



died, and his father afterward married Miss Nancy Grenard, by whom he had two sons, George W. and Francis M., who live near Winterset, Iowa. In 1850 he married Miss Mary Dancer, who died a year later. In 1853 he came to Illinois, and purchased land in Henry county. May 21, 1856, he married Miss Elizabeth Love, a native of Mercer county. Having sold his farm in Henry county that year, he bought land in the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1, Rivoli township, which forms a part of the present homestead. Here were born: George (December 31, 1857, who died in his sixth year), Rachel (September 22, 1859), Jane (March 3, 1861), Emma (November 8, 1862), Mary (December 7, 1864); and in August, 1868, his second wife died, leaving him with four motherless children. Mr. Tracy was always engaged in farming, and by industry and energy raised himself from humble beginnings to the position of a well-to-do farmer. He was not a member of any church or society, and in politics adhered to the democratic faith.

NATHAN P. SMITH was born in Ohio in 1830, and came to Illinois with his parents in 1840, when ten years old. His father (Stephen Smith) was a native of Massachusetts, and emigrated to Ohio when a young man, and there married Anna Belt, who survived him, living with her son Frank on the old homestead in section 4 in this township. He first came to Illinois in 1838, and entered forty acres of prairie in section 4 and 120 acres of timber land in Richland Grove, also a tract of timber land on Pope creek. Returning to Ohio he brought his family to Illinois in 1840, and settled on the forty acres of prairie he had previously entered in section 4. He died in 1845, leaving eight children, four boys and four girls. Two of these have died since, Lyman and Mattie (formerly wife of T. G. Woodham). Four of the survivors reside in this township: Nathan P., Chauncey, Frank, and Mary (wife of James Durston). Two daughters (married) live, one in Iowa and one at Moline, Illinois. Mr. Smith was a blacksmith, and opened on his place the first blacksmith shop in the township. Nathan P. spent his youth upon the farm, and in the winter of 1847, when seventeen years old, taught his first school in Richland Grove township, agreeing to teach for \$12 per month, and was to have \$15 if the patrons were suited. When his school closed he made out his bill at \$15 per month, and it was paid without question. He afterward taught four winters in Oxford, Henry county, and four winters at the Hopewell district in this township, also taught at Henderson Grove. In 1860 he married Mary Ann Woodham, and built his present residence, and settled in the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N. E. of Sec. 9, which he had been improving for some years previously. The farm consists of 100 acres of prairie, besides which he has twenty acres of timber. He

has two children, Minnie (the elder) and Charles. He was supervisor of this township three successive years during war times. In politics he is a republican, but is not very partisan.

TIMOTHY D. MERRYMAN was born in Kennebec county, Maine, January 14, 1827, town of Chesterville, now in Monroe county. His father, Timothy Merryman, was born in Brunswick, Maine, November 16, 1787, and married Elizabeth Dunning January 23, 1813, who was also a native of Maine. He was a ship carpenter by trade, also a farmer, clearing for himself a farm among the pines of his native state. In 1835, with his three oldest sons and eldest daughter he came to Illinois, and locating in Richland Grove township, sent for the remainder of the family to come, which they did the next year, 1836, coming all the way with teams. Mrs. Merryman being sick on their arrival at Wheeling, Virginia, took passage on a boat with one of her daughters and came by river to Rock Island. They had nine children, six sons and three daughters, seven of whom survive. The six sons in the order of their ages are: Albert D., Thomas, David D., Joseph M., Timothy D., and Ira. The only surviving daughter, Thirza Ann, is the wife of Robinson Nye and resides in Moline, Illinois. Mrs. Merryman died in October, 1852, aged sixty-four, and Mr. M. died in April, 1873, at the age of eighty-six, their remains resting in the cemetery at Moline. Timothy D. was brought up on the farm, and at the age of twenty-one began his fortune with a capital of \$50. He bought an interest in a saw mill that his father and one of his brothers had built in Richland Grove in 1845. While engaged in this mill he made a claim on 160 acres of land in section 9, Rivola township, to which he afterward added eighty acres in the same section and entered it with land warrants in 1850. He had forty acres under improvement when, in 1853, he crossed the plains to California with an ox team. Thus can he boast of having crossed the continent from Maine to California with a team. He was engaged there in mining, farming and teaming until 1863, when he returned to Illinois and settled where he now lives, on the northeast of section 9. December 1, 1864, he married Miss Mary Manning, who was born in Richland Grove township, in this county, July 23, 1840. She was daughter of James Manning, one of Mercer county's pioneers, who settled in that township in 1835. Of six sons and three daughters but two survive, Mrs. Merryman and one brother in Indiana. March 24, 1873, his house was burned, but he replaced it with a fine, spacious residence, surrounded by quite a grove of maples, that have grown from seed planted by himself, and from which he can now make a barrel of syrup annually. He has added to his original farm until he now owns 640 acres, including twenty acres



of timber. In 1878 he built on his place the first dairy in the county, which has made large quantities of cheese and butter since that time, but is run exclusively now as a creamery. Mr. and Mrs. Merryman are both active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

A. P. SHROYER was born in this township in 1851. His father, Henry Shroyer, was born in Indiana in 1815, and in 1842 married Miss Rebecca Hughes, who was born in that state in 1820; and there their oldest son (William) was born in 1846. In 1847 Mr. and Mrs. Shroyer came from Indiana to this state, settling on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15, in this township, where he lived until his death a few years ago, and where his widow, who survives him, still lives. Besides the above-named children there are: M. L. (born in 1856), Sarah J. (born 1859), and Martha I. (born 1863). January 1, 1869, William married Miss Johanna Powell, daughter of Horatio Powell, an old settler in North Henderson township. A. P. married Miss Donna Meadows November 11, 1875. She was born in Warren county, Illinois, June 12, 1855; daughter of James Meadows. They have three children, all boys. A. P. is a member of Oxford Lodge, No. 367, A.F.A.M., and is its secretary at present. He and his wife are members of the Christian church, and were connected with the church in New Windsor as long as it was in existence. He was formerly in the drug business in New Windsor, but is now engaged in farming. Two years ago he built a very commodious residence on part of the old homestead, where he now resides, and, with his brother (M. L.), carries on the farm, which comprises 280 acres. The family is of German origin, the name having been spelled Schroyer, but with the lapse of time the *c* has become elided.

T. G. WOODHAMS was born in Albany, New York, October 19, 1837. His father and mother, William and Harriet (Gorham) Woodhams, were both natives of England. Mr. Woodhams came to America first in 1820, but returned again after a short stay. In 1828 he came to America, to make this his permanent home. He married Harriet Gorham in Albany, New York. In 1838 he came to Illinois and settled on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21, this township, where the subject of this sketch was raised and still lives. Mr. Woodhams died October 20, 1844, and was the first person buried in the Woodhams cemetery, the site for which was donated by him for that purpose. Mrs. Woodhams resides on the place with her oldest son (William), who is a bachelor and a wheelwright. A younger son (John C.) enlisted in Co. D, 83d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and died at Fort Donelson, Tennessee, November 30, 1862. His remains are interred in the Woodhams cemetery. Their daughter (Harriet) is the wife of E. B. David, dentist, and

resides in Aledo. The subject of this sketch married February 10, 1867, Miss Martha A. Smith, daughter of Stephen Smith, one of the pioneers of this township, mentioned in the history of this township. She died July 5, 1873, leaving three children: Mary A. (born December 1, 1867), Adelbert L. (born March 21, 1870), and John L. (born October 8, 1872). September 16, 1874, he married Mrs. Maria Smith, widow of J. Lyman Smith, and daughter of James Durston, the pioneer. She was born in Rensselaer county, New York, August 19, 1833, and came to Illinois with her parents in 1837. Mr. and Mrs. Woodhams are active members of the Wesleyan Methodist church, of Hopewell. By industry and economy Mr. Woodhams has added to the old homestead until his home farm now comprises 480 acres. He raises and feeds cattle and hogs quite largely, and does an extensive business in buying and shipping stock to the Chicago market. At one time he represented this town on the board of supervisors of the county, and for several years he has served on the board of commissioners of highways of this town. In politics Mr. Woodhams is a republican.

#### COMPANY G, TWENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT.

This company was composed of men from different parts of Mercer county and other counties, but perhaps the largest number was from the vicinity of New Boston. The company was organized August 23, 1861, with Henry R. Southward as captain, Simeon Sheldon, of New Boston, as first lieutenant, and Robert P. Lytle, of New Boston, as second lieutenant. Southward served to the end of his term of enlistment, Sheldon was promoted to adjutant, and held the office a few months, and Lytle was promoted to captain of company B. George R. Beardsley succeeded Lytle, but soon resigned, and was succeeded by Hugh M. Love, of Swedonia, who afterward became first lieutenant and was killed in battle November 25, 1863.

The regiment was organized at Camp Butler, with seven companies, August 10, 1861, and at once ordered to Jacksonville as a part of John A. McClernand's brigade. About a month later the regiment went to Cairo, where it was joined by three other companies, making the regiment complete. Two months later (November 7) the regiment was engaged, under Gen. McClernand, at Belmont, and bore a prominent part and lost heavily.

March 14, 1862, it, with other regiments, was formed into what was known as the Mississippi flotilla, and started down that river and



was at the famous siege of Island No. 10, and was the first to land. After this the regiment was engaged at the siege of Corinth and battle of Farmington, guarding railroads, and finally, after many and long marches, arrived at Nashville September 12, 1862. It was in the battle of Stone River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, and numerous other engagements.

April, 1864, the regiment was ordered to join the Atlanta campaign, in which it was engaged at Rocky Face Ridge, Resacca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree creek, and in the skirmishes around Atlanta. After this (August 25) the regiment was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois.

The veterans of the regiment generally went into the ninth regiment. During the term of service the regiment lost in killed, or died of wounds or disease, 182, of whom twenty-four were from Mercer county.

#### COMPANIES A AND G, THIRTIETH REGIMENT.

These two companies were raised almost entirely in Mercer county, and mainly from the eastern portion, from sons and members of some of the oldest and finest families. The names of many adorning the monument at Aledo will be recognized as the same as those mentioned frequently in the pages of this work as pioneers of Ohio Grove, Mercer, Richland Grove, Millersburg, Abington and Keithsburg. Company A was organized August 28, 1861, by the election of Warren Shedd, of Aledo, as captain; N. R. Kirkpatrick, Ohio Grove, as first lieutenant; and F. G. Burnett, of Ohio Grove, as second lieutenant. April 22, 1862, Warren Shedd was promoted to the office of major, and Francis G. Burnett, who had already been promoted to first lieutenant became captain. Burnett resigned September 3, 1862, and was succeeded as captain by Elijah B. David, then of Richland Grove. Capt. David was mustered out October 27, 1864, his term having expired, and Daniel M. Candor was promoted to the captaincy.

N. R. Kirkpatrick, elected first lieutenant on the organization, was killed at Fort Donelson. David W. Park, of Millersburg, and Robert S. Finley, of Ohio Grove, served for a time as first lieutenants, and Samuel McCreight, of Ohio Grove, and Lorenzo D. Hanson, of Millersburg, were second lieutenants.

Company G was organized September 30, 1861, by the election of James Burnett, of Ohio Grove, as captain; Henry G. Calhoun, of Keithsburg as first lieutenant; and Orla Richardson, of Keithsburg, as

second lieutenant. May 16, 1863, Calhoun having resigned, and Capt. Burnett having been killed, Richardson was promoted to the office of captain, and held the same until his resignation, August 12, 1864. David H. Wolf was then promoted to the captaincy, and served until mustered out, July 17, 1865. H. H. Hurst served a short time as second lieutenant, and John McClure was second and then first lieutenant. James A. Logan was chosen first lieutenant, September 15, 1864, and retained the office until his muster out, July 17, 1865.

### THIRTIETH REGIMENT.

The Thirtieth Infantry Illinois Volunteers was organized at Camp Butler, Illinois, August 28, 1861, Col. P. B. Fouke, commanding. September 1, 1861, it moved to Cairo, Illinois, and was assigned to Brig.-Gen. John A. McClernand's brigade, Brig.-Gen. Ulysses S. Grant commanding district of Cairo, and Maj.-Gen. John C. Fremont commanding department of Missouri. October 22, it went on scout into Kentucky, near Columbus. November 7, it was engaged in the battle of Belmont. The regiment did gallant service during this action, and captured the celebrated "Watson's New Orleans battery."

January 10, 1862, the regiment moved from Cairo on a reconnoissance into Kentucky, and returned on the 22d. February 4, it moved up Tennessee river, and on the 6th was in the attack and taking of Fort Henry, in Col. Oglesby's brigade. It was engaged in the siege and taking of Fort Donelson, 13th, 14th and 15th of February, 1862.

It arrived at Pittsburg Landing April 25th and took part in the siege of Corinth, in Col. Logan's brigade. June 4th and 5th it marched from Corinth to Bethel, and on the 8th occupied Jackson, Tennessee. On the 13th and 14th of August the regiment marched to Estenaula, and on the 31st to Denmark.

September 1, 1862, the regiment marched toward Medan Station, on the Mississippi Central railroad, and about four miles from that place met the enemy's cavalry, 6,000 strong, under Gen. Armstrong, and after four hours' hard fighting drove the enemy from the field, gaining a brilliant victory. The Thirtieth was commanded by Maj. Warren Shedd, Col. Dennis, commanding brigade of 20th and 30th Illinois infantry, one section Schwartz's Illinois battery, Capt. Forster's company of independent Ohio cavalry, and thirty-four men of the Fourth Illinois cavalry.

On the 2d of September the regiment marched to Medan; 3d, to Jackson; and on the 2d of November, to Lagrange. On the 11th it



marched toward Water Valley, Mississippi, arriving December 19th. On the 21st it marched for Memphis, Tennessee, arriving January 19, 1863. It was stationed at Memphis, Tennessee, in Col. Leggett's brigade, Maj.-Gen. Logan's division, Maj.-Gen. McPherson's corps.

February 22, 1863, the regiment moved to Lake Providence, Louisiana, and moved soon after to Vista's plantation. April 17, it moved to Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, and joined Grant's army, and moved to Bruinburg, Mississippi, crossing Mississippi river. May 1, it moved to Thompson's Hill; after that it moved to Hankinson's Ferry, on Black river, skirmishing with the enemy *en route*, and then moved to Raymond, Mississippi. The regiment was engaged in the battle of Raymond, May 12, and then moved via Clinton to Jackson, and pursued the retreating enemy after their defeat, 14th of May. May 16 it engaged in the battle of Champion Hills, losing heavily, and crossed Black river with the army, and arrived in the rear of Vicksburg May 19, 1863.

May 25, the regiment moved with the expedition to Mechanicsburg, under Gen. Blair. Returning, it actively participated in the siege of Vicksburg until June 23, and then moved to Black river, under Gen. Sherman, to watch the rebel Gen. Johnson. The regiment then moved with Gen. Sherman's army to Jackson, and assisted in the investment of that place, after which it went to Vicksburg, arriving July 25, and remained in camp until August 20, when it moved to Monroe, Louisiana, returning the 28th. October 14, it moved, under Gen. McPherson, toward Canton, Mississippi, and was in engagement at Bogachitta creek, and returned the same month.

January 1, 1864, the regiment mustered in as a veteran organization and on the 10th moved with an expedition up the Mississippi river against guerillas, and returned on the 15th. February 3, left Vicksburg, on Meridian campaign, under Gen. Sherman, and participated in the several skirmishes with the enemy, and arrived at Meridian February 15th. It returned March 3d. March 5, the regiment left Vicksburg on a veteran furlough to the state, arriving at Camp Butler March 12th.

April 18, the regiment left Camp Butler, and on the 28th left Cairo with the "Tennessee river expedition," under Gen. W. Q. Gresham, and arrived at Clifton, Tennessee, the 30th. May 5, it marched, via Pulaski, Tennessee, and Athens, Alabama, to Huntsville, Alabama, and on May 25th moved to Decatur, crossing Mississippi river the 27th. Thence it went, via Warrentown, Alabama, to Rome, Georgia; thence, via Kingston, joining Gen. Sherman's "grand army" at Ackworth, June 8th. On the 10th it moved to Big Shanty, and commenced skir-

mishing with the enemy, and on the 27th moved out to make a demonstration in front, losing about twenty killed and wounded.

On the night of July 2, the regiment moved, with the Seventeenth Army Corps, to the right of Gen. Sherman's army, and on the 5th moved to Nickajack creek. On the 9th the regiment was sent to guard department headquarters, and on the 12th moved to Sweet Water creek. July 17, it moved toward Decatur, via Marietta, crossing the Chattahoochie at Roswell's and arriving at Decatur on the 20th. It was in the battle of July 21st, near Atlanta, and also in the battle of July 22d, near Atlanta; lost heavily. It was actively engaged until the fall of Atlanta and Jonesboro, and camped at East Point, September 6th.

October 4, 1864, the regiment moved northward, in the pursuit of Gen. Hood, via Kenesaw mountain, to Resacca, and returned to Smyrna camp ground via Galesville, Alabama, arriving November 5th. November 13, it moved to Atlanta and on the 15th moved with Gen. Sherman's army in the "march to the sea," participating in the capture of Savannah, Georgia, December 21st. Left Savannah January 4, 1865, and moved by water to Beaufort, South Carolina. Left Beaufort January 13th and participated in the capture of Pocotaligo on the 15th; remained at Pocotaligo until the 30th; marched with Sherman's army to Goldsboro, North Carolina, where the regiment arrived March 25, 1865. The regiment was engaged, during the march, in the capture of Orangeburg, Columbia and Cheraw, South Carolina, and Fayetteville, North Carolina, besides destroying railroad track, etc.

April 10, the regiment moved to Raleigh, arriving there on the 14th, and remained in camp until the surrender of the rebel army under Gen. Johnson. April 29, it marched northward, via Richmond, to Alexandria, Virginia, arriving May 19th. The regiment took part in the grand review May 24, 1865, at Washington, D. C., and camped near Washington the same day. It left Washington June 7th, via Baltimore & Ohio railroad, arriving at Parkersburg, Virginia, the 9th, and proceeded by steamboat to Louisville, Kentucky, remaining in camp at Louisville.

It was mustered out of United States service July 17, 1865, by First Lieutenant Aug. P. Noyes, A. C. M. third division, Seventeenth Army Corps, and arrived at Camp Butler, Illinois, July 20th, where the men received final payment and discharge July 27, 1865.

Of company A thirty-one men died from wounds and disease, or in battle, and of company G nineteen reaped a like reward for their bravery.



## COMPANY D, EIGHTY-THIRD REGIMENT.

Company D was raised largely in the eastern part of Mercer and the western part of Henry county. It was organized August 21, 1862, by the election of Joshua M. Snyder, of Viola, Mercer county, as captain; Hugh M. Robb, of the same county, as first lieutenant; and Francis M. Sykes, of Oxford, Henry county, as second lieutenant.

There were but few changes in the officials of this company, and consequently but few promotions. Snyder and Robb went in for the whole war and were mustered out with the boys three years, lacking a couple of months, after their enlistment. Sykes resigned, after having been second lieutenant just two years, and Hugh B. Frazier succeeded him, and was mustered out at the close of the war. The 83d was raised largely in Warren county, and was organized at Monmouth, August 21, 1862, by A. C. Harding, who was promoted a year later to the office of brigadier-general, upon which Arthur A. Smith succeeded him. The regiment did heavy guard duty the most of first year and a half. The country along the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers was infested with guerillas, and this regiment had almost daily skirmishes with them, some of them being quite severe. On February 3, 1863, the regiment was brought in contact with 8,000 men of Forest's command, and successfully resisted them, compelling them to retire with a loss of 800 killed and wounded; and with a loss of thirteen killed and fifty-one wounded in the 83d regiment. It was in consequence of this brilliant achievement that Col. Harding was promoted to brigadier-general and Smith to colonel. During the year 1864, the regiment had about 200 miles of communications to guard. The regiment was mustered out at Nashville, and from thence proceeded to Chicago for final pay and discharge.

COMPANY G, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH  
REGIMENT.

The 124th regiment with few exceptions was raised from men residents in the vicinity of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad between the west end of Mercer county to Chicago, and almost every town and county along the line contributing a share. New Boston and vicinity furnished nearly one whole company, the one above named.

The company was organized September 10, 1862. Lyman H. Scudder was elected captain, Ezra C. Benedict first lieutenant, and Benton Pratt, second lieutenant. The first two named afterward resigned, and Pratt succeeded each in course and was mustered out captain. John W. Mosby and William B. Day each succeeded to higher offices in consequence, and the former was mustered out as first, and the latter as second, lieutenant. The organization of the regiment took place at Camp Butler the same month, and one month later was in the enemy's country at Jackson, Tennessee, and on the 28th of November was assisting in driving the rebels across the Tallahatchie river. During the year 1863 the regiment fought in the battles of Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, and was in the whole of the siege of Vicksburg, including the charge on the fortifications, and the assault on Fort Hill. The 124th received from Maj.-Gen. McPherson the prize banner offered by Brig.-Gen. Leggett for excellency in discipline and drill and soldierly appearance. Upon the banner was inscribed "EXCELSIOR REGIMENT, THIRD DIVISION, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS." After this the regiment was engaged in the raid to Meriden, the campaign under General Slocum to Jackson. The balance of the term of service was spent mostly in the extreme south around New Orleans and Mobile.

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#### COMPANY B, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT.

This company was raised near the line between Rock Island and Mercer counties, Duncan and Perryton townships furnishing quite a number of the men. The company was organized September 4, 1862, and the regiment the same day at Alton, Illinois, whither the members of the company and the companies and parts of companies had gone.

About two months later we find the regiment at Bolivar, Tennessee, and November 28, at La Grange. December 19 the regiment went to Jackson, Tennessee, to re-enforce that place. September 10, 1863, the regiment participated in the capture of Little Rock, Arkansas. The regiment was also engaged in the siege of Vicksburg and Clarendon, Arkansas. It was mustered out June 26, 1864.



## COMPANY F, ONE HUNDRED AND FORTIETH REGIMENT.

One company of this regiment was raised in Mercer county. This was a three months', or 100 days', regiment. The company and the regiment were organized June 18, 1864. Russell S. Osborn, of Aledo, was captain of company F, George Boone, of Aledo, was first lieutenant, and Van R. Harriott was second lieutenant. There were no resignations or deaths in the ranks of these officers, and consequently no promotions, and all were mustered out October 29, 1864, 130 days after date of enlistment.

## NORTH HENDERSON TOWNSHIP.

This township, which is T. 13 N., R. 1 W. of the 4th P. M., is one of the best agricultural townships in the county. Pope creek skirting along its northern boundary, sometimes in this and sometimes in Rivoli township, made a strip of rough, broken land, averaging about one-half mile in width the entire length of the township. A portion of this was originally covered by excellent timber. The north half of section 1 was especially noted for the very heavy body of timber on it, and great effort was made by some of the first settlers to find the owner or owners of it, so much did they covet its possession. It was held under what was known as a patent title, and no clue to the ownership being obtainable it became what was known in those days as a "hooking quarter," and many a mile of worm fence was made with the rails cut and split upon this land.

The north fork of the Henderson river, from which the township takes its name, has its source in Rio township, Knox county, crossing the line into this township near the northeast corner of section 13, and running nearly due west across it, leaves it near the half section line of section 18. There are but two small groves of native timber on this stream, within the bounds of this township; Hickory grove in sections 15 and 16, and Scott's grove in section 18. There is but a small percentage of broken land bordering this stream in this township.

The St. Louis branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, which was built as the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis railroad, in 1871, passes through this township; entering on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 24, it runs in a southwesterly direction, leaving near the southwest corner of section 31. The village of North Henderson, which is the only village in the township, is located on this railroad and was laid out

in 1871, on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N. W. of Sec. 26, by Wm. H. and John T. Brown, sons of Allen S. Brown, one of the pioneers of this township. This is now quite a flourishing village, having two stores doing a general mercantile business, two drug stores, two hardware stores, two agricultural implement dealers, two grain merchants, one lumber yard, one restaurant, one harness shop, one shoe shop, one furniture store, one millinery store, one blacksmith and repair shop, one livery stable, one hotel, one barber shop, and four doctors. There is a good two-story school-house in the village and one church, the Methodist Episcopal. The I.O.O.F. also have a fine two-story building here, 28×48 feet, twenty feet posts, built two years ago at a cost of \$1,600. The lower story is fitted up for a public hall and the second floor for the exclusive use of the order, which is very strong here.

The Methodist Episcopal class of North Henderson is the oldest church organization in the township, having been organized at the house of David Bruner, in the spring of 1840, by Asa McMurtry, who was at that time on the Mercer circuit, which included all of this county with part of Rock Island, Knox and Warren counties, requiring a month for the minister to make the round of his charge. The original members of this class were: David Bruner and wife, Margaret Bruner (now the wife of W. R. Mathers), John Vestal and wife, Susannah Wood (who was a daughter of David Bruner), and Andrew J. Holmes and wife.

In this township live several members, including the present pastor, Elder John M. Brown, of the oldest church organization in this part of the state, though organized and having its church building in Knox county. It is the Henderson Predestinarian Baptist church, and was constituted August 14, 1830, at the house of D. Roundtree, by Elders Stephen Stricklin and John Logan, the original members being Jacob and Rhoda Gum; James and Martha Goff; Reuben and Ruth Nance; John D., Dariah and Mary Roundtree; Martha, Daniel and Obadiah Fuqua; Nicholas and Deborah Vailes. This church has had a continuous and uninterrupted existence from the time of its constitution until the present, and its records show the proceedings of every monthly meeting, which now lack but one of completing the full period of fifty-two years. This church belongs to the Spoon river association of the Predestinarian Baptist church, formed in 1830, in which connection it has been ever since its constitution. Elder Joseph Jones, who was well known to the pioneers of this county, joined this church in November, 1847, and died January 29, 1848. He had previously been connected with a branch of this church, in this county, called the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, of Edwards river.



The first record of this church is the minutes of a meeting of the members, held at the house of George Miller, on Edwards river, July 21, 1838, of which meeting Jeremiah Swafford was chosen mederator, and Abraham Miller, Jr., clerk. This meeting was held within the present limits of Perryton township. Meetings were held in the private houses of members until at a meeting held in the house of Gabriel M. Barkley, in Farlow's grove (now in Preemption township), December 22, 1838, the next regular meeting was appointed at the school-house in Sugar Grove (now Perryton township). March 23, 1839, they voted to appeal to Henderson church for letters of dismission and help to constitute them into a separate church. Their prayer was granted, and the Edwards river church was constituted June 29, 1839, by Elders Joseph Jones, Charles Vandever, and Hiram Bowman. The members at the constitution were: Joseph and Rebecca Jones; George, Mary Ann, and Julia Ann Miller; Abraham Miller, Jr.; John and Sarah Farlow; Roswell and Mehitable Stanard; Youngs Green; Michael Donahoo; Gabriel M. and Hannah R. Barkley; Mary Miller; and Susannah Shelley. Gabriel M. Barkley was chosen first deacon of the church, and Abraham Miller, Jr., first clerk; Gabriel M. Barkley, treasurer; Elder Joseph Jones, moderator and pastor.

The first delegation from this church was Joseph Jones, Gabriel M. Barkley, George Miller, John Farlow, and Abraham Miller, Jr., to sit in council with and constitute a church at William Denison's. It was voted at this time to hold meetings one-half the time at Sugar Grove and one-half the time at Farlow's Grove. The last regular meeting of this church was held October 9, 1847, when, "after consultation and due deliberation being had the church and council thought it expedient to letter each other out and so become dissolved, inasmuch as the members are moving away out of the bounds of this church."

There are but two church buildings in this township. Besides the Methodist Episcopal church mentioned above is the Maple Grove United Brethren church, located on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 36, in a beautiful grove of soft maple trees. This society was organized in 1869, and built its church the same year, a very neat structure  $30 \times 40 \times 16$  feet. Its present pastor is Rev. Mr. Dilley, resident at Alexis, where is another church of this denomination.

A class of the Methodist Episcopal church was formed at the Mann school-house at an early day, probably soon after the class was formed at David Bruner's, but its early record is not now obtainable. This class was ministered to by David Bruner and other local preachers of the Methodist Episcopal church, transient ministers, with an occasional visit from the minister in charge of the Mercer circuit.

The Methodist Episcopal church in North Henderson was the first church built in the township. It was built at what is known as Mount Vernon, south of the village, and was moved into the village after that had become a fact.

*The Odd Fellows* have a very strong lodge, with a fine hall in the village. North Henderson Lodge, No. 628, I.O.O.F., was chartered October 11, 1876, by J. H. Oberly, grand master for the state. Its charter members were Israel T. Jones, Lewis Schwartz, C. W. Cummins, Laland Salts, Michael Karl, L. E. Dredge, and James Smith. The first officers of this lodge were J. M. Hall, N.G.; Lewis Schwartz, V.G.; I. T. Jones, Sec.; C. W. Cummins, Treas.

North Henderson Encampment, No. 99, I.O.O.F., was chartered December 28, 1880. Its charter members were H. C. Dodge, A. F. Howard, Fred Rich, John Flory, Jesse Jackson, J. H. Humes, Michael Karl, Dr. C. G. Stewart, John T. Morford, I. N. Frederick, Lewis Schwartz, C. W. Cummins, L. E. Dredge, and C. A. Pinne, chartered by John P. Foss, Grand Patriarch. The first officers of this Encampment were C. G. Stewart, C.P.; John T. Morford, H.P.; Henry Simms, S.W.; I. N. Fredericks, J.W.; J. H. Humes, scribe; A. F. Howard, Treas. The Past Grands of the lodge are J. M. Hall, I. P. Jones, A. H. Jones, Michael Karl, L. Schwartz, John T. Morford, and Fred Rich. In 1880 the lodge built a two story hall 28×48×20 feet, at a cost of \$1,600; the ground floor being fitted for a public hall and the second floor exclusively for the use of the order.

The township has built a neat and commodious town hall in the village for the public uses of the town. The first postoffice established in this township was called Ethel, and was located on section 21, John Goff, postmaster. After the village of North Henderson was established, the Ethel postoffice was removed to the village and the name changed, though Mr. Goff continued to be postmaster. George A. Blue, druggist, is the present postmaster.

February 18, 1838, the first marriage ceremony was solemnized in this township by the Rev. Mr. Gardiner, of Galesburg, a Universalist minister, uniting Benjamin F. Brown and Miss Lucinda Mann. The first birth in the township was that of William D. Fleharty, October 4, 1834, son of Govert and Margaret Fleharty, who lived on section 1 at that time. The first death to occur in this township was a child of John Pollock, which was the second interment in the Mann cemetery, the wife of James Bridger having been the first, in 1836. Thither Mr. James Mann, who gave the site for this cemetery, soon followed, dying March 10, 1837, at the age of sixty-four. In 1840 scarlet fever broke



out as an epidemic in this neighborhood and the mortality was very great for such a sparsely settled country, there having been ten interments in this cemetery in one month.

The first settler within the limits of this township, was Mr. Govert Fleharty, who located on the southeast quarter of section 1, in the spring of 1833. In the fall of 1834 James Mann and his son, Young C., and Timothy Meeker, arrived from Indiana, wintering in Knox county, just east of Mr. Fleharty's; they made claims in this township, upon which they located the following spring of 1835, Mr. Mann's claim being on section 6, where Young C. still resides, and Mr. Meeker's on section 5, his widow now residing on the old homestead with one of her sons, other sons and daughters living in the vicinity. The same spring of 1835 Benjamin F. and Harison Brown made claims on sections 18 and 19. The Scott family came into this township in 1837, Notley Scott buying the claim of Harison Brown on sections 18 and 19, alluded to above, Benjamin F. having previously sold his claim to Harrison. The latter then made a claim on section 1, Suez township, where he still resides. March, 1838, Benjamin F. made a claim on sections 6 and 7, where he resides yet. In the spring of 1839 Allen S. and Benjamin Brown made claims in the southeast part of this township, the former on section 25, and the latter on section 35. They were followed that fall by David Bruner and Andrew J. Holmes, who also located in the southeastern part of the township.

The first schools taught in this township were by John Wilshier, the first term in the house of William McGreenwood, and the second in the cabin of Young C. Mann, both on section 6. Afterward Robert Shaw taught a term of school in this same neighborhood, for which he was to receive \$8 per month, and take his pay in wheat. The early records of the schools of this township after organization are not attainable. As early as 1839 there was preaching in the cabin of Benjamin F. Brown, on section 7, by the Rev. Mr. Fuller, of Galesburg, a Universalist minister. Mr. F. is still living in Galesburg.

The township was called Liberty when first organized in 1854, but was changed to its present name on or before the annual town meeting in 1855. The first officers elected in this township in 1854 were Notley Scott, supervisor; Joshua Bruner, town clerk; John W. Miles, assessor; James M. Holmes, collector; R. R. Mathers, Eli Tangham and Nathan Bailey, commissioners of highways; Timothy Meeker, overseer of poor; Andrew J. Holmes and William F. Garret, justices of the peace; and James M. Holmes, constable. Total number of votes cast at that time, twenty-four.

The principal offices of this town have been filled since its organization by the following persons, and for the number of terms mentioned:

*Supervisor*—Notley Scott, two years; Lewis L. Heflin; Joshua Bruner, four years; Allen S. Brown, two years; Thomas J. Jones, three years; H. M. Buchanan; G. W. Higgins, two years; L. F. Gentry; William H. Brown, four years; P. W. Johnston, two years; Richard Garrett, three years; M. D. Scott; A. W. Nelson, four years.

*Town Clerk*—Joshua Bruner; Michael Stumbaugh; R. R. Simms; J. C. Morford, two years; James Bruner; E. L. Carroll; W. M. Fleharty; J. T. Morford, three years; I. R. Evans; James M. Goff, four years; William Church, two years; O. M. Bartlett; D. N. Holmes; John L. Goff, four years; L. C. Heare; O. W. Caldwell; George W. Miller; Joseph H. Humes, four years.

*Assessor*—John W. Miles; Thomas Tate; G. W. Taylor; A. J. Walker; James M. Holmes; James M. Goff, three years; John Douglass; H. M. Buchanan; Joshua Bruner; I. R. Evans; William H. Brown; Richard Garrett, nine years; William A. Nelson, two years; S. M. Brown; Thomas Camblin.

*Collector*—James M. Holmes; Nathaniel Bailey, four years; John T. Marford; C. M. Barnett; Michael Stumbaugh, two years; John C. French; L. F. Gentry; G. A. Crosby; D. N. Holmes; Levi G. Bair; A. H. Jones; J. N. Blackburn; A. W. Nelson, two years; L. T. Johnston; Frank Herbert; George A. Blue; Lewis Scott; M. V. Drew; Robert Blaney.

*Justices of the Peace*—Andrew J. Holmes; William F. Garrett; Thomas Camblin, three terms; James Marford, two terms; W. R. Mathers, three terms; Richard Garrett; J. B. Hoag; G. W. Greenwood; Jacob Shauholtzer; Lewis L. Heflin, two terms; J. N. Blackburn; J. C. Jackson, two terms; John T. Marford.

In 1880 this township built a town-hall 24×42×14 feet, at a cost of \$785.

On the farm of G. W. Higgins in section 14 is the only artesian well in this county. Mr. Higgins began this well in 1874, but it was not completed until 1876. The first company failed with its drill fast in a strata of magnetic rock, so the second company employed had to begin at the surface. The well attained a depth of 1,209 feet. The last surface water was passed at a depth of 127 feet. At 915 feet water was struck that rises to within eighty feet of the surface, and an inexhaustible supply. A ten-horse-power engine, running to its full capacity four hours, throwing a four-inch stream, failed to perceptibly lower the water line in the well. The water is soft and contains a



small percentage of iron; temperature, sixty-two degrees F. In boring this well the first coal was struck at seventy-five feet, without roof; coal was struck again between 440 and 485 feet. Magnetic rock was found at 405 feet.

The following list gives the different strata passed through, with the thickness of each, beginning at the surface:

	Feet.	Feet.
Yellow Clay.....	30	30
Dark Clay and Gravel.....	45	75
Coal and Shale.....	40	115
Limestone and Water.....	12	127
Shale.....	10	137
Black Slate.....	18	155
Dark Shale.....	123	278
Limestone.....	3	281
Shale.....	15	296
Limestone.....	4	300
Shale, with Sulphate of Iron.....	27	327
Bastard Limestone.....	18	345
Limestone.....	95	440
Limestone and Coal.....	45	485
Limestone.....	25	510
Blue Shale.....	65	575
Limestone.....	17	592
Alternate Strata of Shale and Limestone, two to three feet....	78	670
Blue Shale.....	30	700
Limestone.....	412	1,112
Sandstone.....	88	1,200
Black Shale.....	9	1,209

Besides the Mann cemetery mentioned above, there was a cemetery laid out in 1860 in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, called Mount Vernon cemetery, which has been quite extensively patronized since that time by the people of the southeast corner of the county.

In introducing the history of some of the pioneers of this township it is fitting that Govert S. Fleharty should be the first one mentioned, as he was its first white inhabitant. This cannot be better done than by quoting from the pen of one who knew the family well, and wrote of its history as follows:

#### THE FLEHARTY FAMILY.

Among others who came to Mercer county in those far off and romantic days, ere the Indian war-whoop had died away from the prairies of northern Illinois, were the four brothers, Stephen W., Govert S., Bennett E., and Henry Fleharty, and their respective families. They were accompanied by their aged father and mother, William and

Margaret (Withgot) Fleharty, who were natives of Maryland, and during the early years of their married life had a delightful home on the far-famed Eastern Shore, near Coptauk river. Grandfather Fleharty, as he was called in later years, was, in his younger days, a slaveholder, and although not imbued with anti-slavery sentiments to any great extent, he removed with his family to Ohio in 1810, mainly for the purpose of escaping from the demoralizing influences of slavery. The four brothers above-named were typical western pioneers; athletic, courageous, and possessed of great physical endurance. They located in Mercer county, at different periods between the years 1833 and 1835. This portion of the state was then a primitive paradise. Many hardships were to be endured by the early settlers, but there was grand inspiration in their surroundings. Not far away was the great father of waters, with shores bordered with dark, dense forests. Here and there were lovely groves, which in the summer season appeared like islands in an emerald sea. Nimble footed deer frequented the woods and streams or bounded over the prairies in herds, scarcely realizing the presence of the few and scattered pioneers. The prairies were nature's own flower gardens. There the wild bees gathered their winter stores and thence they were followed by the wary bee hunters to the knarled oaks which contained their hoarded wealth. Looking across the years that have intervened since those days, and realizing the value of the work that was accomplished by all of the pioneer settlers of Illinois, it seems fitting that for those who have gone to their long home, pioneers now in the land beyond the river, there should be a memorial decoration day, and that their graves should be annually strewn with fairest flowers. Illinois had a grand army of these pioneer settlers, grand in character if not in numbers. In this army the brothers above-named held an honorable rank. It is related of Henry, the younger of the four, that in the sports of muster day, as the militia meetings for drill were styled, he was only equaled in feats of strength and agility by one person, Mr. Notley Scott, who was one of the most athletic men in that part of the state. Henry Fleharty died before he had reached the prime of manhood.

Stephen W. Fleharty, the elder of the four brothers, was born in the state of Maryland on the 28th day of December, 1799. He removed with the family to Ohio in 1810, and to Springfield, Illinois, in 1825. He was married three times during his life of eighty-two years. A daughter, Margaret, by his first wife, married Mr. James T. Jones and now resides at Mount Hecla, Texas. Her mother died while yet very young. Mr. Fleharty's second wife, Amelia W., was the daughter of Rev. John Kirkpatrick, one of the pioneer Methodist ministers of



Illinois. The union proved to be a happy one and they raised a large family of children. The family settled in Mercer county in 1834, on a handsome tract of land, composed of timber and prairie, one and a half miles east of what was then known as "Bridger's Corners," now Suez. Mr. Fleharty was a cabinet-maker by trade and was a thorough workman. Articles of furniture made by him are still in use among some of the older families of Mercer county. When not employed on the farm he worked industriously at his trade, and in this way finally secured a comfortable home. He was a strong man intellectually, a great reader; a whig in politics, then a republican, and always a patriot. The partner of his joys and sorrows during those early years, Mrs. Amelia W. Fleharty, was a true christian woman, and her life, so gentle and affectionate in the midst of many trials, illustrated the most winning graces of christianity. She was the mother of ten children, including two pairs of twins. Only four of the ten are now living. George Washington and Marquis Lafayette (twins), Amelia, Sarah E., and Fletcher A. all died young. Mrs. Fleharty passed away to the land of the blessed in the year 1865. Mr. Fleharty married a third time, and a son was born to him when he was nearly seventy years old. He died on April 10, 1882, in his eighty-third year. The following is an extract from a notice of his death that was published in the Galesburg "Republican Register": "A good man, whose life reaches back into the last century and forward so late in the present century; a man whom every one calls honest and honorable; having a record of eighty-three years unstained and unchallenged, is one of the choicest treasures of a commonwealth. Such was Stephen W. Fleharty, as every one who knew and respected him will allow." His widow, Mrs. Julia B. Fleharty, and her son Eddie are living near Galesburg.

William L. Fleharty, the oldest of the family excepting the half-sister above mentioned, possessed all of the sterling qualities of his father and the gentleness of his mother. He married young, worked industriously and provided for himself and family a pleasant home near Galesburg. His wife's maiden name was Elizabeth Terrill. He died in the prime of life, aged forty-six, and Mrs. Fleharty survived him only a few years. They left a family of six children, two of whom are married.

J. Q. A. Fleharty (twin brother of H. C.), is a traveling minister in the North Nebraska Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been very successful in his vocation.

H. C. Fleharty is engaged in farming near Fullerton, Nebraska. He was married when young to Miss Margery E. Cullison, of Knox county, Illinois. They have an interesting family of bright, promising children.

Rev. J. J. Fleharty, the next in order of birth, entered the ministerial profession when very young, and was for many years a member of the Central Illinois Conference. He has been eminently successful as a minister. Was married, when young, to Miss Anna B. Brace, of Stark county, Illinois. They have had only one child, Clara, now a charming young lady. Rev. Fleharty is now president of the Nebraska Wesleyan University, located at Fullerton, an institution that is young in years but full of promise. He also continues in the work of the ministry.

S. F. Fleharty, the youngest of the four brothers who are living, was born September 6, 1836, and was either the first or second child born within the limits of Suez township. He was a member of the 102d Ill. Vol. Inf. during the late war, and was sergeant-major of the regiment. Was a member of the Illinois legislature in 1870-72, representing Mercer county. Removed to Nebraska in 1875, where he engaged successfully in the newspaper business, and is now private secretary of the governor of Nebraska.

GOVERT S. FLEHARTY.—Returning to the “old stock,” it is a pleasure to sketch the career of another of Mercer county’s honored pioneers. Govert S. Fleharty was born on the eastern shore of Maryland, February 22, 1804, a patriotic beginning of a life that was marked by the strongest impulses of patriotism, and of devotion to the inalienable rights of man. He removed with the family to Ross county, Ohio, in 1810, and to Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1825, where he was married in 1828 to Margaret L. Harmon. They remained in that county some five years, during which time Martha C., Stephen W., and Mary A. Fleharty were born. In 1833 the family removed to Mercer county, selecting a home on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1, North Henderson township, and there William D. and Margaret were born, the latter being the youngest and last of the family. In 1838 the family removed to Henry county, where they lived for many years, in a pleasant home near the village of Oxford. Govert S. Fleharty was physically and mentally a strong man, earnest in his convictions, and adhering to them with unswerving fidelity in the face of the most bitter persecutions. He was an old-time abolitionist, and, to his honor be it said, that he aided more than one fugitive slave that was fleeing from the bloodhounds and the lash of the southern slaveholder. He died October 20, 1876, and it is written of him that he was born on Washington’s birthday, and died during the centennial year of American independence. His wife, Margaret L. Fleharty, was a faithful, devoted, and affectionate christian woman, whose good example and kindly nature has left an enduring impression upon the surviving members of



the family. She died December 10, 1880. The children are all living. Martha C. married Mr. W. T. Bridger. They have a family of four children, and a pleasant home, one mile north of Oxford and just across the line from Mercer county.

S. W. Fleharty, the elder of the two sons, was born October 24, 1830, and was married in 1856 to Miss Elizabeth Watson, of Mercer county. They reside on their beautiful farm, a short distance east of New Windsor, and by their industry have made a happy home for themselves and their children. Wesley, as he is commonly called, is a man of the strictest integrity, an original and independent thinker, bold and direct in expressing his views on all subjects, uncompromising, yet kind at heart, and worthy of the respect which he universally receives.

The second son, William D. Fleharty, was born October 4, 1834, and was the first white child that was born in North Henderson township. He was married in 1860 to Miss Mary C. Petrie, daughter of William F. Petrie, and sister of Hon. A. P. Petrie. Mr. and Mrs. F. have only one child, Annie, now twelve years old, and very natarally, as well as deservedly, their only darling is the sunlight of their happy home. Mr. Fleharty has been engaged in business as a grain buyer at New Windsor for many years, and has been remarkably successful. During all of that period he has maintained a character that is above reproach, and all classess have implicit confidence in his business integrity. He has been twice elected to the office of supervisor for Rivoli township, and has discharged the duties of the office with credit to himself and to his constituents. Mr. and Mrs. Fleharty have an elegant home in New Windsor.

Mary A. Fleharty, the second daughter, married Mr. Peter Stevens a substantial and well-to-do farmer, who resides in Ohio Grove township. They have seven children. The youngest daughter, Margaret, married Mr. David McLaughlin, and their home near Oxford is the old home of Govert S. and Margaret Fleharty, the father and mother of five children, who have all been successful in life and an honor to their parents.

Another brother, William Fleharty, next in age to Stephen, was a minister, and at the time the family settled here he went into the lead region of southwestern Wisconsin, where he married and settled and died. He has one son residing in Wisconsin and one in Kansas. A sister Ann married Joseph Holiday, in Sangamon county, before the family came to this county, afterward removing to Knox county, and settling near Bennett. When William Fleharty settled in what is now Suez township, it became known that he had served as justice of the

peace in Ohio for some years, so he was elected to the same office here. At that time the state was too poor to furnish more than three or four copies of the statutes for the use of the legislature, and Mercer county was not the possessor of a single copy. Mr. F. had a copy of the Ohio statutes so he administered justice according to the statutes of Ohio, and no one could question his decisions as they could produce no Illinois law in his court.

BENNETT E. FLEHARTY.—The early history of Mercer county would be incomplete without a sketch of Bennett E. Fleharty, one of the four brothers named at the beginning of this article. Old settlers remember him as one of the most conscientious men that ever lived. He was a mild mannered man, very quiet, and ever faithful to his duties as a christian. It is related of him that after working hard during the week, he often walked from seven to ten miles for the purpose of attending the Methodist class meeting of those days. His home was on the south side of Pope creek, near the eastern line of the county. His wife's maiden name was Charlotte Cook. They raised a family of four children: William, John, Sarah, and Jane. The family removed to Kansas, some years ago, and soon afterward Uncle Bennett, as he was familiarly called, passed away to that land from which no traveler returns. The news of his death was heard with great sorrow by old neighbors and relatives here, and his exemplary life will not soon be forgotten. The surviving members of the family are living in the state of Kansas.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Among the earliest settlers of this township was BENJAMIN F. BROWN, who was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, April 7, 1810, the son of Samuel and Henrietta (Hobbs) Brown. His father died in Kentucky, but his mother came to Knox county, Illinois, with the family, in 1831. The family consisted of nine children, seven of whom lived to have families. Alfred, now deceased, left several children: Harmon lives in Knox county; Sallie (wife of Peter Frantz), lives in Knox county; Harrison and Benjamin F. live in this county; Joshua H. in Knox county; Samuel W. in Washington Territory, has had a position in a United States land office there for a number of years; Margaret (deceased), was the wife of Mr. Freeman, of Knox county; and John (deceased), lived in this county at the time of his death. Benjamin F. came to Knox county, Illinois, in the spring of 1831. In the spring of 1832 he joined Capt. William McMurtry's company of rangers, which formed part of Maj. Bogard's regiment, enlisted in the counties of Schuyler, McDonough, Warren and Knox, for the defense of the



frontier against the bands of Black Hawk, who had taken the war-path again that spring. In one of the scouts made that season by a detachment of his company he proceeded to the present site of the city of Rock Island, which was marked at that time by the presence of one log cabin. The years 1833 and 1834 he spent in the lead mines about Galena. The spring of 1835 he began to improve a claim with his brother Harison, on sections 18 and 19. Selling out his claim to his brother Harison in 1836, he returned to Knox county. February 18, 1838, he married Miss Lucinda Mann, daughter of James Mann, whose early settlement is spoken of elsewhere. She was a native of Ohio, born near Cincinnati. That spring he began to improve a claim on sections 6 and 7, which now forms part of his farm, which consists at present of 324 acres on the southwest section 6, northwest section 7, and E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. E. Sec. 12, in Suez township. He has a fine residence on the southwest section 6, built in 1861, where the latch-string is always out, in true pioneer style, and no more hospitable welcome is to be found than beneath his roof. Mr. B. was fond of the chase and in the days when game was plenty his trusty rifle brought many a deer to the dust. He was also fond of luring the finny denizens of the rivers from their native element, and acquired so great a reputation in this line that he is commonly spoken of now by the old pioneers as "Fisher Ben." He and his wife are active members of the Universalist church, to which they have been attached for many years. They have a parish organized now in Suez township and a half interest in a church with the United Brethren on section 10 in that township. Mr. B. was formerly a whig, but upon the demise of that party and the organization of the republican party, he has been a zealous and active adherent of that party. Their children were : Susan E., born November 17, 1838, married Ira G. Bridger July 24, 1864, and died, without any children, May 15, 1877 ; Joshua H., born July 6, 1841, enlisted in Capt. Pepper's company, 84th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., in 1862, and served his country faithfully until the close of the war ; January 1, 1867, he married Mrs. Mary (Dilley) Rodgers and now resides on the southeast of section 10, in Suez township ; Samuel M., born in March 10, 1844, married February 6, 1868, Miss Almira Allen, daughter of Henry H. and Amanda (Abbott) Allen, she being a daughter of Johnson Abbott ; (Mrs. A. was a native of Kentucky, and Mr. A. of this state ; they have three children : Benjamin A., born September 19, 1870 ; Ida Olive, March 20, 1873, and Cora May, January 12, 1881. They reside in this township, having a farm of 140 acres on the southwest of section 9) ; Vachel H. (born October 7, 1846, died November 24, 1850) ; Henrietta H. (born November 10, 1851, married John Allen, brother of

Samuel M.'s wife, October 8, 1874, now reside in Wyoming Territory); Olive (born April 24, 1857, died May 31, 1875); Margaret (born November 2, 1860), is the only one now at home with her parents.

Another pioneer was ALLEN S. BROWN, who traces his genealogy from John Brown and his wife (Elizabeth Crossly), who emigrated from New Jersey to Kentucky in the days of Daniel Boone; emigrating thence to Ohio in 1786. Mrs. B. finally died in Indiana when 101 years old. These were his grandparents.\* His father, Samuel Brown, was born in Kentucky in 1782, and married, in Butler county, Ohio, March 12, 1807, Miss Jane Bell, who was of Irish descent. He received a bounty and pension from the government for his services in the war of 1812. He moved from Ohio to Indiana, and thence to Knox county, Illinois, with his family in 1834. He died in Warren county, Illinois, September 10, 1856, and Mrs. Brown survived him until May 12, 1869. There were nine children in the family: Elizabeth, Hester, Mary, Benjamin, Allen S., Nancy, Jane, Samuel, and John. Hester was the wife of Timothy Meeker, and survives him, living upon the old homestead. Allen S. was born near Connelsville, Wayne county, Indiana, November 7, 1818. December 31, 1837, he married Miss Polly McMurtry, of Knox county, who was in her eighteenth year at that time. She was the oldest daughter of John and Mary (Williamson) McMurtry. Mr. McMurtry was born in Mercer county, Kentucky, in 1797, his ancestors coming from Ireland before revolutionary times; his grandfather falling a victim to the Indians in the early settlement of Kentucky. He removed to Indiana in 1813, and was married in Crawford county, that state, September, 1819. His wife was a native of South Carolina. Their family consisted of six girls: Polly, Lovicy, Martha, Harriet, Sarah, and Eliza, all born near Leavenworth, Indiana. In 1830 he hired a team to bring his family through to Illinois, he following with a few head of cattle. He located on section 33, Rio township, Knox county, building a rail pen and covering it with canvas, in which they sheltered themselves for three weeks while erecting a log cabin. In 1831 all the settlers north of Henderson Grove were warned away on account of threatened depredations by the Indians. Some who left their claims did not stop until they reached the friendly shelter of Indiana's wooded plains. Mr. McMurtry removed his family to a block-house on the south side of the grove near James Gumm's, known as the Gumm fort. After remaining there two or three months, they returned to their claim. In the spring of 1832 they were driven into a fort near Paul Hahn's, on the north side of the grove, that had been built by the settlers during the



previous winter for their better protection. Here they remained four weeks and then returned to their home. This fort was not far from their claim; so when danger threatened, they would go to the fort at night and return to the claim to work during the day. On some occasions, after a period of fancied security, when remaining in their cabin nights, they would be warned by a courier of the approach of Indians, and, thinking they had not time to reach the fort, they would conceal themselves in the shadows of the neighboring woods, or in the tall grass that bordered all the sloughs on the prairies, remaining in their hiding places until daylight revealed to them that the alarm had been a groundless one. But to return to the subject of this sketch. Mr. Brown, after his marriage, rented a farm one year, but in April, 1839, he settled on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E. of Sec. 25, which he afterward entered. Here they began life, with a log cabin having one room in it, one yoke of oxen, and a two-year-old filly. From this small beginning they accumulated a handsome property, owning some 800 acres of land before Mr. Brown's death, which occurred June 19, 1871. Their children are: Sarah J. (wife of A. N. Tate, deceased), Eliza A. (wife of L. F. Gentry, deceased), Mary E. (wife of William Brown), William H., Martha E. (wife of Isaac Stevens, deceased), James N. (died in infancy), John T. (now married and living on the old homestead), Amanda M. (died in her sixth year), Charles W., Annette (wife of L. J. Smith), Allen Douglas, Levi F., and Fred A. Mr. Brown was a man of more than the average native ability. Though never united with any society, Mr. Brown was a Universalist in his religious belief. Aunt Polly Brown, as she is familiarly called by a wide circle of friends, has endeared herself to all with whom she has come in contact by her many acts of kindness to the old, and her rare motherly interest in and solicitude for the welfare of the young. She now resides in the village, keeping house for her son, Allen Douglas, who recently lost his wife after a brief season of wedded happiness. William H., the oldest son, was born February 29, 1844. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. A, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and was made a sergeant on the organization of the company, but was mustered out with the rank of first lieutenant. He was wounded in the battle of Resacca, May 15, 1864, but continued in the service until the close of the war. October 3, 1866, he married Miss Maria Heflin, youngest daughter of Reuben Heflin, one of the pioneers of Knox county. She died March 15, 1875, leaving two children: Claud I. and Maud. In May, 1880, he was married to Miss Belle Watson, a native of Canada. He was four years supervisor of this town, and has always taken an active interest in political matters, being a democrat. Since the death of his first wife he has studied

medicine, graduating at Rush Medical College, Chicago, and is now practicing with Dr. C. G. Stewart in North Henderson.

One of North Henderson's prominent citizens at present, though not a pioneer, is JOSEPH H. HUMES, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1844; his father, whose name was Joseph, was also a native of that state. His grandfather was a soldier in the war of 1812, and his great-grandfather a soldier in the war of the revolution. The family is of Scotch-Irish descent. His mother, whose family name was Ernst, was descended from a Hessian soldier taken prisoner during the revolutionary war and afterward settled in Pennsylvania. Her father, Andrew Ernst, died in Knox county, Illinois, and is buried in the Fuller cemetery. His father came to Illinois in 1853 and settled in McDonough county, removing to this county in 1859. In 1864 Mr. H. enlisted in Co. D, 139th Ill. Vol. Inf., which was a regiment of hundred day men. He was honorably discharged November, 1864. Married Eliza Dunn September 7, 1865, and engaged in farming. In 1871 he had the first house built in the village of North Henderson, the present hotel building. Mr. J. L. Goff had previously moved a building into the village. He kept the hotel two years and was then engaged in the grain business eight years. Has been in the lumber, hardware, and agricultural implement business, since 1880. He has two children, Hattie, born November 1866, and Leo, born February 20, 1877. He is at present clerk of the town, having held the office four years. He is a member of both North Henderson Lodge and Encampment of Odd Fellows. He is also a member of Horeb Chapter, No. 4, R.A.M., of Rio, and Galesburg Commandery, No. 8, K.T. In politics he is a democrat.

GEORGE A. BLUE, druggist, is the son of an old pioneer, William Blue, who was born in Indiana in 1826. He settled on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 27, in this township, in 1837. During the year 1851 he lived in Knox county, and December 21, that year, he married Miss Ellenor Rice, of that county. She was born in Indiana January 19, 1825, and came to Knox county, Illinois, with her parents in 1831. After his marriage he returned to this county, where he died in March, 1864, having had a family of five children, three of whom are living: George A., born January 1, 1853; Thomas J., born April 4, 1855, owns the old Rice homestead, in Knox county; Frank W., born December 19, 1863, lives in North Henderson. George A., who was raised on the farm, owns the old homestead, the southwest of section 27. He has been engaged in the drug business in the village since 1879, and postmaster since 1880. He married September 8, 1874, Miss Lura Glass, daughter of Seymour and Isabelle (Black) Glass. Her grandfather, Samuel Black, was one of the old pioneers of Warren county. They



have one child, Archie W., born September 19, 1876. George A. is a member of Horeb Chapter, No. 4, R.A.M., of Rio, also of Galesburg Commandery, No. 8, K.T.

M. H. JOHNSTON, druggist, is a son of Larimer and Hannah (Hayes) Johnston, of Suez township in this county, whose history will be found in connection with the history of that township. He was born in Grundy county, Ohio, November 26, 1855, and came to Illinois with his parents in 1857, settling in Suez township, where he was raised on the farm with such advantages as the common school of his district afforded, which he supplemented with a commercial course in Allen's Business College in Aledo. April 20, 1881, he married Miss Anna Galloway, daughter of James Galloway, grocer of Aledo. Miss Anna was a native of Pennsylvania; born April 16, 1858. He went into the drug business in North Henderson in March, 1881, and is doing a large business for a country drug store. He is a member of North Henderson Lodge, No. 585, I.O.O.F. In politics he is a republican.

The history of North Henderson township could not well be written without a notice of EDWIN EVANS KENDALL, M.D., who was born in Worcester county, Massachusetts, October 12, 1826. His father, Paul R., and his mother Jane (Nickerson) Kendall, were also natives of that state; his father was engaged in mercantile pursuits; died when Edwin was quite young. An extract from an obituary notice from the pen of J. P. McClanahan, M.D., of Alexis, Illinois, published in the "Peoria Medical Monthly," will be appropriate here. The doctor says: "During his early life, by industry and self-sacrifice, he worked his way through an academical course of study, teaching during a part of the time, and in like manner through his professional studies, graduating from the medical department of the University of Buffalo, New York, April 27, 1853, the institution being at that time under the presidency of Millard Filmore; the medical faculty being as follows: Charles A. Lee, M.D., Jacob H. Hamilton, M.D., Austin Flint, M.D., Edward M. Moore, M.D., George Hadley, M.D., John C. Dalton, Jr., M.D. Dr. Kendall at first decided to practice his profession in the east, near his original home, but soon changed his mind on account of failing health, or an attack of hæmoptisis, and resolved to try the west, to which he removed in the fall of the same year, 1853, wisely selecting for himself a rural location in Mercer county, Illinois, where his health seemed rapidly to improve and his business to increase as the new settlers flowed in to what was then a comparatively new and sparsely settled, rich, prairie country. Among these settlers the doctor made many warm friends and confident patrons, and for years fair health continued with him, notwithstanding his unrelentive promptness to

attend calls regardless of heat or cold, inclement weather, or any disparaging circumstances." He died at his residence in North Henderson January 25, 1882, of typhoid pneumonia. The winter of 1853-4 the doctor taught in the Illinois Liberal Institute in Galesburg, which afterward became Lombard University. He commenced the practice of his profession in the spring of 1854, boarding at Reuben Heflin's, in Knox county. In 1857, while boarding at Lewis Heflin's, in this township, the doctor met with an accident, which, in a measure, crippled him for life. His team ran away in the night and threw him out of the buggy, injuring one leg so that he never entirely recovered. In 1858 he located permanently in this township. July 10, 1862, he married Mary E., widow of William Button. Mrs. Button's maiden name was Bruner, she being a daughter of Adam Bruner, and niece of David Bruner, mentioned heretofore in this work. She was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, August 8, 1836, and came to this township in May, 1855, and married William Button September 5, 1857, who died November 6, following, from the shock of having an arm torn off in a threshing machine. The doctor and wife have had eight children, five of whom survive him: Eugene E. (born February 12, 1867, has entered E. Crosby's store as clerk), Nancy Jane (born June 11, 1871), Mary Edna (March 27, 1873), Minnie Belle (April 6, 1875), Abbey Ellen (July 12, 1877). They moved from their farm into the village in July, 1872.

Though not as old a resident of this township as some others previously mentioned, Mr. ALFRED W. NELSON occupies a very prominent position. His father, Benham Nelson, was a native of Virginia; his mother, whose maiden name was Amanda Brewer, was a native of Wayne county, Indiana. Benham Nelson dealt largely in horses, in Indiana. He was sheriff of his county for two years. Having a construction contract on a canal, he exposed himself so much while laboring to fulfill it that he became a cripple for life. He moved to Knox county, Illinois, in June 1855. A. W., and his twin brother A. H., were born in Indiana, February 3, 1840, and came to this state with their father, living near Saluda in Knox county. A. W. was married December 29, 1862, to Miss Eliza Imel, who was born in Indiana, June 24, 1840, and came to this state with her father, Thomas Imel, in 1850. In 1877 A. W. came to this township, locating on the southwest of section 27, where he owns forty acres, and forty-one acres adjoining in section 34. He has always been engaged in farming. They have three children: Benham, born October 31, 1866; Katie, January 1, 1869; Bertha B., March 31, 1878. He is a member of Horeb Chapter, No. 4, R.A.M., of Rio. Also of North Henderson Lodge of



Odd-Fellows. He is now supervisor of this town, for the fourth consecutive year. In politics he is a democrat. He is a man of more than average native ability, a close observer, doing his own thinking, examining his ground carefully before taking a new step. A. H., the twin brother mentioned above, is known by his friends as Harvey Nelson. He was married September 19, 1867, to Miss Adelia A. Kays, daughter of William Kays, of Saluda, Knox county, Illinois. They came into this township in 1873, and settled on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W. Sec. 34, where they reside now. The farm comprises eighty-eight acres. He built his present residence in 1875. They have three children: Hampton, born May 22, 1869; Ida, October 18, 1873; William, July 15, 1881. Mr. Nelson a member of both the North Henderson Lodge and Encampment of the I.O.O.F., as well as the Alexis Lodge of A.F.A.M. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of North Henderson. He is one of the commissioners of highways of this town. William Kays, Mrs. Nelson's father, is one of the old pioneers of Knox county, having settled in that county as early as 1832 or 1833.

PETER W. JOHNSTON, though comparatively a recent settler, has been a positive quantity during the period of his residence in this township. He is an excellent representative of the old Virginia and Kentucky country gentleman. He was a native of Virginia as were also both his parents and grandparents. His grandfathers, on both his father and mother's side, were in the revolutionary army. His father and seven uncles from both branches of the family were in the military service of the country during the war of 1812. His father, whose given name was John, died in 1826, when the subject of this sketch was ten years old. His family consisted of four boys and two girls, of whom P. W. was the eldest. Three of these survive, one brother and one sister living in Virginia. After his father's death his mother received from the government a land warrant for his father's service in the war of 1812. His mother's maiden name was Nancy Wyatt. She was a woman of very marked ability, and a sterling patriot, being very energetic in aiding the national cause to the full extent of her opportunities during the struggle from 1812 to 1815. She was about eighty-six years old at the time of her death which occurred in 1880. P. W. was born in Gloucester county, Virginia, August 19, 1816; he removed thence to Kentucky in 1835, residing in Breckenridge county, in that state, until 1862; he moved to this state, settling in Hancock county, where he lived one year, settling in this township in 1863, on the southeast of section 19, which farm he still owns, though he has lived on the southwest of section 31, near the village of Alexis since the

spring of 1875, where he owns forty-two acres. With the exception of three years that he was in the mercantile business in Kentucky Mr. Johnston has always been engaged in farming. He was married September 23, 1837, to Martha A. Hayes, a native of Virginia, born in that state in March, 1816, and emigrated to Kentucky in 1835. Her father's name was William, and her mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Forster. They have had eight children, only three of whom are living: Benjamin F., born February 26, 1839 (deceased); Nancy, May 21, 1841 (deceased); Mary E., October 12, 1845, wife of Joel Hays living in Missouri; John W., January 27, 1843 (deceased); Matilda E., February 8, 1848 (deceased); Littleton T., May 11, 1850, in the cattle business in Texas at present, though he makes his home with his father; Ann M., born March 30, 1853, wife of Newton Bruington, resides in the villiage of Alexis; Martha A., March 3, 1856 (deceased). Mrs. Johnston is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, south. Mr. Johnston is a member of the masonic order, and politically a democrat.

Probably one of the best known and most highly respected pioneers of this township, and the one having the widest circle of friends and acquaintances, is NOTLEY SCOTT. It would be a long radius drawn from his house that would describe the circle excluding those who do not know "Uncle Notley," as he is familiarly called. In the days when game was plenty it was a good huntsman that killed more deer than he, and a strong man that could march home under the weight of a heavier buck. He excelled in all the games in vogue in those days requiring agility, strength and prowess, Henry Fleharty being the only competitor for the honors that had any chance with him in those days. He also enjoys a reputation that he has built for himself during the passage of the years for the strictest honesty and probity, his word being as good as a bond. To his house still clings the pioneer quality of hospitality that makes "Uncle Notley's such a good place to visit." Uncle Notley, though seventy-two years of age, enjoys his trips to the bay, to shoot wild duck or fish in their season, as much as any of the young men, no sport pleasing him so well, unless it be playing croquet, at which game he is an expert. Uncle Notley was born in Ohio July 8, 1810. His father, Joseph Scott, was born in Virginia in 1773, and was consequently two years old when the war of the revolution began. He removed with his parents to Kentucky when only four years old, and thence to Ohio in 1796. He married Miss Mary Cain, of Kentucky, who was born March 15, 1777. They moved to Indiana in 1823, and thence to Illinois in 1835. He died in November, 1872, his life having almost reached a century. His wife died



March 2, 1857. Notley was married November 3, 1832, to Miss Sallie Betts, who was born in Kentucky December 20, 1809, and died April 23, 1871. Their family consisted of twelve children, ten boys and two girls: Preston (deceased), Fielding, Joseph, William, M. D., Reiley, Nancy, Notley (deceased), Samuel (deceased), Sarah (deceased), Lewis, and Nathaniel Greene. Uncle Notley is one of the very few men, if not the only man, of whom it can be said that he can open and run a masonic lodge within his own family, himself and seven of his sons being members of the order. They are all members of Horeb Chapter, No. 4, R.A.M., of Rio, and two (Preston and Greene) K.T. He came to this township in 1837, and bought the claim of Harison Brown in sections 18 and 19, where he still resides, his daughter Nancy having been his housekeeper since the death of her mother. The grove near which he resides, and part of which he owns, has always been known as Scott's Grove since he settled there. He owns at present 485 acres of land. He was the first supervisor of this town.

In 1854, at the time that immigration was flowing into this county so rapidly, there came a man from Mercer county, Pennsylvania, who began the race of life evenly with the state of Illinois, and thus far the two have kept even pace year for year, but how much longer the score will remain a tie time alone can determine. Money staked on the state, though, will most probably some time win. JOHN T. MORFORD was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, February 27, 1818. His father, James Morford, was born in New Jersey, July 17, 1793, and his mother, whose maiden name was Martha Titus, was a native of the same state, born June 8, 1797. They were married September 28, 1815. His father died July 12, 1870, and his mother, at the age of eighty-five, makes her home with him. John T. was married February 27, 1840, to Miss Esther Hazen, a native of Crawford county, Pennsylvania, born November 16, 1819. They settled on the northeast of section 22, in the spring of 1855, when, to use the language of Mrs. Morford, "there was not a switch on the place with which to whip the children." Now their house is almost lost to view by the dense grove of trees that surrounds it. Their farm at present comprises 200 acres of rich North Henderson soil. Mr. Morford is a carpenter by trade, and has worked at the business most of the time until since the close of the war. The patriotism of this family is unquestionable. Mr. Morford and his two oldest sons, at that time in their nineteenth and sixteenth years, respectively, enlisted in Co. C, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., in 1862, and served faithfully until the close of the war; the oldest son, Hiram T., being wounded during the siege

of Atlanta, and John T. ranking as third sergeant when mustered out. Mrs. Morford is also entitled to great credit for her part in the conflict. Left to manage the farm and take care of the children, the oldest boy left at home being but thirteen years old, her success is ample proof of her ability. They have seven children: Diana (born in 1841, wife of H. Herbert, lives in Iowa), Hiram T. (born December 10, 1843, married Miss Sophie Crosby, and lives in Iowa), William Henry (born June 3, 1847, married Miss Frances Shipman, and lives in Wisconsin), Isaac C. (born January 2, 1849, is married and lives in Iowa), James Byron (born November 26, 1850, married Miss Christine Olson, and lives in Iowa), John Jasper (born August 18, 1853, married Miss Adella Allen, and resides on the old place, carrying on the farm), and Martha M. (born March 13, 1859, wife of William Steele, lives in Iowa). John T. is a member of both North Henderson Lodge and Encampment of I.O.O.F, and in politics he is republican. He and his wife are members of the Alexis Baptist church.

Another prominent citizen of this township, also a native of Pennsylvania, JOSEPH DEETS, was born in Venango county of that state, February 25, 1831. Came to Illinois in 1855, settling in Warren county, where he resided four years; removing to this county in March, 1859, he settled on the northeast of section 28 where he still resides, though he has been steadily enlarging his borders, by the purchase of additional farms, until his landed possessions in this township now aggregate 800 acres. He was married August 23, 1857, to Miss Augusta Chatfield, of Warren county, a native of Ohio. They have seven children living at present: Ethselda (wife of Gilbert Higgins), Ada, Alvah, John, Joseph, Sarah, and Eliza. Mr. Deets was raised on a farm and has always followed that occupation, and his success is an excellent example of what can be accomplished by the agriculturalist who has energy, perseverance, and uses a reasonable economy. His educational advantages were limited to the common school. In politics he acts with the republican party, though is not what would be termed a partisan. His parents were both natives of Pennsylvania, his mother of Scotch and his father of German descent, his grandfather coming from Germany to this country. His father, whose name was Joseph, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but after the organization of the Wesleyan Methodist church he identified himself with that church, being led thereto by the slavery issue which was agitating the churches at that time.

The "Old Dominion" furnished another successful farmer for this township, in the person of RICHARD GARRETT, who was born in Virginia, March 13, 1830, and moved to Kentucky with his parents in 1834,



living in Breckenridge county until two years prior to leaving that state, when he lived in Mead county, moving thence to Texas in 1855, where he remained one year only, coming to Illinois in 1856. He settled on the northeast of section 30, in the spring of 1857, where he still resides, having added to his farm until at present he owns 550 acres. December 24, 1849, he was married to Miss Juliet Douglas, a native of Kentucky, born October 5, 1832, daughter of Gilson B. Douglas. They have twelve children: Adaline (wife of O. G. Chapman, postmaster at Alexis), David, William, Martha A., Peyton J., Douglas, Alice, Robert L., Lucy A., Edna, Mary E., and Richard. Mr. Garrett is a Master Mason, but not in active connection with any lodge now.

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### ADDITIONAL MATTER, CORRECTIONS, ETC.

The matter that follows, much of it of a very important character, was recieved too late for insertion in the portion of the book originally designed for it. Some of the sketches were held for revision by friends until the sheets containing the matter most appropriate for them had gone to press.

#### EARLY COURTS.

BY R. H. SPICER.

The holding of court was the signal generally for the gathering together of the larger part of the able bodied male inhabitants of the county, and as the accommodations at the county seat were rather primitive and scanty, they were at times brought into close proximity. Good nature was the ruling element, and what is termed fun was largely indulged in by old and young. Court generally despatched all of the business in one and a half or two days. The members of the bar, and a goodly number they were, the names of many of whom the old settler recalls with emotions not unmingled with pleasure, followed the court through its peregrinations of an extended circuit embracing nearly a dozen counties.

After Judges Ralston and Lott, Judge Brown became the presiding genius. A large bodied, large headed and good natured man of the old school, whose early days were probably spent south of the great dividing line. His make up did not enable him to master all the *finesse* of law, and as a consequence those lawyers who believed in law as a science, and as such were disposed to use it before his court, were very liable to be snubbed. Curtis K. Harvey, of Knoxville, a man

who worshiped law because it was law, was always very unfortunate, while such men as Jo. Knox, John Mitchell, Bill Kellogg, and one or two others whose law, perhaps, may have been rather loose, as advocates always appeared to have the ear of the court, jury and populace. Joseph Knox, of Rock Island, commonly known as Jo. Knox, of the firm of Knox & Drury, probably had the inside track of all practising here at an early period, though among the members of the bar were Brown, of Quincy; Manning, of Knoxville; A. C. Harding, of Monmouth, and others who have since become eminent in their profession. Knox was an able advocate, not at all choice of his words or of his epithets when a witness was so unfortunate as to stand in his way. No doubt but there was jealousy existing in the hearts of other members of the bar at his success. Whisperings first went around that Drury made up his cases for him, finally that Drury furnished the brains, and as Drury was always invisible the tendency was, as is usually the case with the uncomatable, to magnify the powers of Drury. Curiosity became excited; all were desirous of seeing the great incognito; the members of the bar most of any. Finally on a frosty day late in the fall word was conveyed into the filled court room that a "ship was in the offing." It had been previously announced that Drury was expected on that day. Court adjourned without the usual formality, whether to do honor to the expected arrival or to take his measure, the historian sayeth not, but as the eager crowd got into the street they descried in the distance a large bay horse approaching, well caparisoned with an immense bear skin housing to the saddle, in which sat a small figure of what it was difficult at the distance to tell, but upon near approach it proved to be the ardently expected Drury, ensconced in an immense buffalo overcoat, whiskers of mammoth proportion for the man (for be it known Mr. Drury is of a very small pattern, physically), and something on his head, witness can't say whether hairy or not. Eyes were staring, mouths were agape. Bill Kellogg, afterward judge and member of congress, was first to break the spell when he exclaimed, *sotto voce*, "by G—d, a pocket edition of humanity, bound in har!" He was a Kentuckian. The quaintness and aptness of the illustration excited a smile of approval. The new comer was heartily welcomed.

The following list of graduates (1882) from the Aledo high school was inadvertently omitted: Scientific course, Birt Fargo, Ned Abercrombie, Cora Pullen, Ina Pinkerton, Zelda Bell, Maggie Thomson, Lou Richmond, Jennie Fulton; classical course, Robert McKinney, Amos Cole, Lew L. Walker, Logan Stephens, Alma Bickett.



## BIOGRAPHICAL.

JAMES M. EMERSON (deceased), for many years a respected and successful business man of New Boston, was born January 22, 1815, in Wayne county, Indiana. His father, Edward Emerson, was a native of Massachusetts, but became an early settler in the Hoosier state, where he became owner of a large tract of land and died. The early life of James was such as a new country afforded in his day. His school-room was chiefly in the free air without enclosure, and his teacher was nature. Although of so limited an education he became quite efficient in business arithmetic, excelling many scholars. In 1839 he located at New Boston, Mercer county, Illinois. Here he labored at whatever head and hand found to do, the two always employed to assist each other. He contracted cutting cord wood, made several trips to Indiana, bringing the first traveling threshing machine to Mercer county. He was on a ferry awhile, also piloted on the Mississippi river for a time. In 1848 he established the first lumber yard in New Boston, although some lumber had been sold here prior to this. He carried on the lumber business till his death. He also purchased considerable land. In 1876, leaving a foreman in his lumber yard, he moved to his farm, about two miles northeast of New Boston. Here he spent his remaining years improving his farm, while suffering from a stroke of paralysis. His career ended in death April 20, 1881. He left a family and large circle of friends to mourn their loss. Mr. Emerson was a plain, unassuming man, attentive to his business and regardful of his family. Politically he was a whig, and later a republican, but never became politically excited. Mr. Emerson was married September 30, 1847, to Miss Harriet Bridger, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Woodham's) Bridger. She was born October 10, 1824, in Northiam Parish, Sussex county, England. She came with her parents about 1827 to New York state, who settled on a farm near Troy. In 1838 they emigrated to Mercer county, Illinois, and settled on Pope creek, in Suez township, where Mr. Bridger died about a year afterward, followed in nine days by his wife. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Emerson began housekeeping in a new house erected in New Boston by Mr. Emerson. There they lived till 1876, and there eight children were born to them, viz : Myra V., born August 5, 1848 ; Dora A., born June 7, 1850 ; Iva, born July 8, 1855 ; Charles O., born September 11, 1858, and died July 12, 1865 ; Alma T., born January 18, 1861 ; Effie, born January 11, 1863, and died January 27, 1863 ; Warren D., born July 13, 1865 ; Ralph Waldo, born January 20, 1869, and died February 5, 1880. The father and husband is fondly remembered. His portrait is in its special place.

AUGUSTUS B. CHILDS, subject of these memoirs, is a son of Horace and Lucy M. (Barker) Childs. He was born in Oneida county, New York, October 31, 1816. He is a descendant of one of three brothers who came from Wales to America before the revolution. Mr. Childs' life has been largely one of farm-labor; not, however, altogether. His youth till fifteen was spent on a farm in Connecticut. In 1838 Mr. Childs emigrated to Mercer county, settling in Eliza township. He rode a borrowed horse to Mercer county when he came, not being able to buy. On his return eastward he left the horse with its owner, and walked a long distance to Indianapolis, where he stopped to work sufficient to pay for a horse. He then rode to Sandusky, Ohio. Like many poor boys he came to be in good circumstances. He at one time owned 1,300 acres of land. Not only industry, but also temperance and good habits have aided him in his financial success. Mr. Childs was a grand jurymen of Mercer county at the first settling of the court at Aledo. He has been married twice. His first wife, Catharine Reynolds, he married in Morgan county, Indiana, June 28, 1840; she died June 5, 1878. Mr. Childs' present wife, Lucy E. (Willits), is a daughter of Isaiah Willits, of Keithsburg. Mr. Childs has traveled considerably, in his career visiting California. Late years he visited Florida, where he purchased a large estate, intending to plant an orange grove, but soon sold.

GEORGE S. WOLF, farmer, Keithsburg, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, November 7, 1818, and is the son of Christian and Sarah (Sterner) Wolf, and a grandson of Henry Wolf, who emigrated, when a mere boy, to America near the middle of the seventeenth century. He was the only one of his father's family sufficiently actuated by a spirit of adventure to leave childhood's home and visit a foreign land. During our subject's early youth his time was constantly employed in agricultural pursuits on his father's farm. During the meantime he received about twenty months' schooling, in the veritable log-cabin school-house, taught by an eccentric old school-master, whose proficiency in teaching equaled only his salary. September 6, 1838, Mr. Wolf was united in marriage with Miss Mary C. Amweg, daughter of William and Hannah (Spirow) Amweg, also a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Wolf has devoted his life to farming, up till 1869, in his native state and since that time on his neat, little farm immediately adjoining the village of Keithsburg. Besides this farm he owns another of 168 acres in Henderson county. He had born to him seven children, five of whom are living: William B., John H., Adam A., Jacob L., Isaiah S.; and Edward and Hannah E. (deceased), aged respectively sixteen and twenty-seven years. His son



William B. served four years during the war of 1861-5; was mustered into service as an orderly, and honorably discharged with a captain's commission, and was wounded in one of the battles of the Wilderness. His son Adam A. is a minister in the United Brethren church. Mr. Wolf and wife are members of the Presbyterian church. Though his school advantages were very meager, he is now one of our best posted men.

WILLIAM B. LARUE, hotel-keeper, Keithsburg, was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, August 13, 1824. His father, who was of French birth, came to America in his early youth. He died in Kentucky August 27, 1824. Mr. Larue, with his mother, step-father and brothers, emigrated to Illinois in 1832, landing at Oquawka April 15 and at Monmouth April 24 of the same year. September 4, 1851, he was married to Miss Catharine M. Roberts. She was born February 21, 1835, and died April 14, 1882. Mr. Larue has no children of his own, but has creditably raised seven orphans.

JOHN MCKINNEY, SR., was born November 2, 1801, in Lincoln county, Kentucky; son of George and Ann (Riley) McKinney; father of Scotch, and mother of Irish, descent. In 1803 his father removed to Casey county, Kentucky, where he continued his business, farming. John's educational advantages were very limited, being only those afforded by the common schools, which he attended less than eighteen months, all told. In December 1821 he went to Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio, and for the next five years made his home with an uncle, John Riley. Mr. Riley was clerk of the court of common pleas of Bulter county, clerk of the supreme court of Ohio, and postmaster at Hamilton, and Mr. McKinney wrote for him in his office, and had charge of the postoffice. While thus employed he made good use of every opportunity to increase his store of knowledge, and secured a fair practical, if not theoretical, business education. On the death of his father, in 1825, he was recalled to Kentucky, to settle the estate, and while thus engaged he entered the office of Hon. John Pope, at Springfield, Kentucky, as a law student. (Mr. Pope had represented his state in the United States senate, and was afterward appointed governor of Arkansas by General Jackson.) Finding the bar already overcrowded with young and briefless attorneys, and having no patrimony to sustain him, Mr. McKinney abandoned the bar, and returned to active labor. In November, 1827, he married Miss Elizabeth Goode. While in Ohio, Mr. McKinney had imbibed the political ideas of the abolitionists, and on his return to Kentucky he found himself in a hopeless minority, politically and socially. This, coupled with the fact that he was poor, and there seemed no chance to better his condition there,

made it incumbent upon him to seek a new home, where better opportunities might present themselves. During his absence many of his associates had removed to Missouri, and his first impulse was to follow them thither, but as Missouri was a slave state, and as he expected by removal to better his condition, he feared that the profits of slave holding might overcome his abolition scruples, and rather than place himself in the way of temptation he decided to settle in the young and promising State of Illinois, and in the spring of 1832 he left Kentucky with his wife and two young children, and opened a farm in what was then a part of Warren county, but when that county was divided he found himself within the limits of the new county of Henderson. Here he conducted farming operations for twelve years, and with such success that he was at the end of that time the owner of 800 acres of land, and a fair competency in addition. In 1844 he removed to Oquawka, and went into business with Edward R. Adams, under the firm name of McKinney & Adams. They conducted a large dry goods and general store, and bought and sold grain, pork and produce of all kinds. The latter were shipped for the most part to St. Louis, the Mississippi river being the only available public highway, although some sales were made in New Orleans. The dry goods were purchased in New York, Boston and St. Louis. The firm also engaged largely in pork packing, in company with Mr. Alfred Knowles, running what was at that time a very large establishment for this country, employing during the packing season from fifty to sixty hands, and handling daily from 500 to 1,000 hogs. In 1854, after ten years of prosperity and success, the firm of McKinney & Adams dissolved partnership, the latter retiring, his share amounting to not less than \$25,000, which had all, and more, legitimately been made during the decade, thanks largely to the business tact of Mr. McKinney. Mr. McKinney continued the business, associating with himself his oldest son, Hiram, under the firm name of McKinney & Son, until about the beginning of the war, when he turned the entire merchandising business over to his three oldest sons, Hiram, John and George, and devoted his time to loaning money. The new firm, however, did not long continue in trade. Hiram died in December, 1861; John raised a company and went with it, as captain, in the 91st Ill. Inf.; and George, whose health rendered necessary a change of climate, sold the stock back to his father, and went to California. Mr. McKinney did not restock the store long, but gradually sold out as opportunity offered. At the time of the great Chicago fire he boxed up and shipped a large quantity of clothing and remnants to the sufferers, and again did the same for the sufferers from the drouth and grasshoppers in Kansas.



His wife died in 1846, leaving him with a family of six children, and in the following year he married Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Rev. Wm. K. Stewart, of Macomb, Illinois, who is yet living. His children by his first wife were: Hiram, died in 1861; Ann, wife of Luke Strong, of Aledo; Elizabeth, widow of James Moir, now resides in Paris, France; John, present postmaster of Aledo; George, doing business in Chicago, and resides in one of the suburbs; Collin, resides near Hot Springs, Arkansas; and William, died in infancy. The two first named were born in Kentucky, the others on the farm in Henderson county, Illinois. Collin volunteered in 1861 in the 10th Ill. Inf., Co. E.; was commissioned second lieutenant, and rose to the rank of captain. With his regiment he re-entered as veteran, and served throughout the war. Children by his second wife were: Adelaide, still at home; Lucretia, died in infancy; James, married, cashier of Aledo bank; Archie, loan clerk for his father; Mary Isabel, at home; Maggie, died in infancy; and Robert Riley, still at home. These were all born in Oquawka. Mr. McKinney united with the Cumberland Presbyterian church in 1833, but on coming to Aledo he connected himself with the First Presbyterian church (known as the Old School), of this place. He is an earnest christian, rigid in the observance of all the rules and religious customs of the church, a regular attendant upon all her ordinances, and a liberal supporter of church and Sabbath school. He has for many years served his church as deacon or elder, and as trustee. He removed to Aledo in May, 1873, and in April, 1874, purchased an interest in the Aledo bank, where he is still the senior member of the firm. He was an old line whig, until the organization of the republican party, since which time he has acted with the latter. During the war he was a strong union man, and was appointed by President Lincoln commissioner of enrollment for the then sixth congressional district, comprising the counties of Adams, Hancock, Henderson, Mercer, Rock Island, and Warren.

CORNELIUS SPRINGER RICHEY, son of John and Mary (Douglass) Richey, was born September 9, 1828, in Salt Creek township, Muskingum county, Ohio; father born in Pennsylvania; mother in New Jersey. His parents had emigrated from Fayette county, Pennsylvania, in 1814. His youth was spent on the home farm until the age of twenty. His education he received in the common schools and in Muskingum college, New Concord. He taught school in the vicinity of his home until 1854, when he came to this county, settling in Ohio Grove township. He was elected county surveyor in 1855, and followed surveying, teaching during the winter months, until 1862, when he went into the mercantile business, first at Bridger's Corners, Suez

township, for about a year, and at Sunbeam, Ohio Grove township, until 1868, when he removed to Aledo, and has ever since continued the business here, first as a member of the firm of C. S. & J. C. Richey, with his brother, J. C.; next with Richey Bros. & McGuffin, J. G. McGuffin having purchased an interest; then alone; again with Jesse Markee and I. N. Dunlap, as Richey, Markee & Co.; with Dunlap, as Richey & Dunlap, and now as senior member of the firm of Richey, Frew & Dunlap, S. J. Frew having recently purchased an interest in the business. The firm deal in dry-goods, clothing, millinery, and groceries, and have a good custom. January 17, 1865, he married Miss Susan H., daughter of Joel Lee, Esq., of Galesburg, Illinois. They have two children living, Arthur, aged thirteen, and Olive, aged five years. He was reelected county surveyor in the fall of 1879 and still holds the office. He has always voted the republican ticket.

**JAMES McCORMICK WILSON.** About the close of the last century David B. Wilson, then only about sixteen years of age, emigrated from his native place in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and settled on a partially opened farm near Fayette City, in the Rehobath valley, Pennsylvania. The location was about thirty miles above Pittsburgh, and ten miles below Brownsville, the point where the old national road crossed the Monongahela river. Here he married Mary McCormick, raised a family, and remained until his death in 1863. Among his children was James M., the subject of this sketch, who was born December 1, 1822. James remained upon his father's farm until twenty-four years of age, receiving only the educational facilities of the public schools of that day, which would illy compare with those of the present. Upon leaving the farm he learned the carpenter's trade and followed it for five years, and could frame a barn or finish a parlor in good style, as occasion might require. November 23, 1853, he was married to Miss Mary Smith, of Flat Woods, Pennsylvania, and in the following May he came to Galesburg, remaining during the summer and returned to Fayette City in the fall. In the spring of 1855 he removed with his family to Galesburg, where, with W. B. Patterson, he went into the furniture business, under the firm name of Patterson & Wilson, continuing until July, 1857, when Mr. Wilson removed to Aledo, erected, with Mr. D. V. Reed, the building on the corner of College avenue and Eighth street, now occupied by L. F. Jobusch, and opened a furniture store in one-half of the building, in connection with undertaking, continuing until 1862. In 1861 he was appointed post-master by President Lincoln. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Co. K, 102d reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and in the spring of 1863 was honorably dis-



charged at Gallatin, Tennessee, on account of disability, and returned to Aledo. He was elected supervisor of Mercer township in 1860, 1863 and 1864. In the fall of the latter year he was elected circuit clerk, and resigned the offices of postmaster and supervisor to enter on his duties, being succeeded as postmaster by Horace Bigelow, of the "Record." He served as circuit clerk until December, 1868. Notwithstanding his limited educational advantages in youth Mr. W. early resolved to become a lawyer, and with this end in view he availed himself of all means of improvement within his reach by general reading and persistent study. During his last year as circuit clerk, upon application, he was admitted to the bar and licensed to practice in the several courts of the state. During the same year he was appointed master in chancery by Hon. A. A. Smith, then circuit judge, and reappointed in 1870 for the succeeding two years. In May, 1869, he formed a partnership with John C. Pepper, one of the oldest as well as ablest attorneys of the county, under the firm name of Pepper & Wilson, which continued until April, 1882, when it was dissolved by mutual consent, both continuing to practice, however, in their own names. During the residence of himself and wife in Aledo, nearly a quarter of a century, they have reared a family of five children: Sarah C. (wife of James H. Ramsey, dealer in jewelry and silverware, Aledo), Mary R. (wife of Joseph Boyd, firm of Boyd Bros., dealers in groceries and hardware, Aledo), Nannie M. (wife of Joseph M. Wallace, M.D., of Coal Valley, Rock Island county, Illinois), Cora C., and Fannie L., both at home and attending the public schools of Aledo, in which their sister Nannie once held a position as teacher. While Mr. W. has not attained great wealth, he has a commodious and comfortable residence, occupying an entire block of ground between Fourth and Fifth streets, west of College avenue, so highly cultivated and improved as to make it among the most desirable homes in the village, and in addition to the complete furnishing proper, in his house may be found one of the best and perhaps one of the largest private libraries in the county. Politically he is a republican. He has for years been connected with the Presbyterian church. He is a Mason of high degree.

BENJAMIN COLEMAN TALIAFERRO was born October 9, 1821, in King William county, Virginia, and is the son of Robert B. and Cecelia H. (Ellett) Taliaferro. His youth was spent on a farm in Virginia until 1836, when, with his parents, he came to Illinois and settled in what was then a part of Warren, but now Henderson county. Here his father died in 1847, and his mother died in 1859, at Young America (now Kirkwood), Warren county. His father was a native of King

William, and his mother of Goochland county, Virginia. Mr. Taliaferro remained on the farm, working and managing it, until the age of twenty-two, when, surrendering it to a brother, he entered the law office of Hon. Charles M. Harris, of Oquawka, as a student. His early education was limited to the common schools of Virginia and one year in an academy, before coming to Illinois; since then to what he could "pick up" by judicious reading and practical business experience. After being admitted to the bar he removed to Keithsburg, and was for a number of years in partnership with John C. Pepper; then alone; next with J. E. Griffin, and again with Benjamin F. Brock, of Aledo, Mr. Taliaferro having his office in Keithsburg, and Mr. Brock in Aledo. In 1881 Mr. Taliaferro removed to Aledo, and formed a partnership with James H. Connell in law and abstract business, which was dissolved upon Mr. Connell's removal to Pueblo, Colorado, in the spring of 1882; and Mr. Taliaferro associated his son, Robert B., with him in the abstract department of his business. In 1848 he was appointed master in chancery for the circuit court in Mercer county, a position he held for nine consecutive years. During his residence in Keithsburg he held a number of municipal offices, and is the present village attorney for Aledo. In 1876 he was elected to the state senate from the then twenty-second senatorial district, comprising Mercer and Knox counties, and served in the thirtieth and thirty-first general assemblies. He had the honor of presenting to the latter the great home-protection petition containing 175,000 names, and of being its special champion in the senate. He has been prominently connected for years with the temperance work, in which he has been ably assisted by his wife, both having frequently lectured on the subject in this and adjoining counties. He was the author of the farm drainage law now in force in this state, and of several other laws, of equal importance, now on our statute books. He also introduced a bill to "establish the Western Institution for the Deaf and Dumb," which failed to pass for want of time for its consideration. He became a Mason in 1850, and is still a member, having attained the Royal Arch degree, and frequently filled important offices in the order. March 15, 1852, he was married to Mary A. Pepper, of Utica, New York. They have four children: Cora B. (at home), Frank E. (married, resides in Springfield; secretary State Board of Health), Ralph E., and Robert B. (both still at home). Mrs. Taliaferro and daughter belong to the Baptist church, of Aledo; no others of the family connected with any church. Mr. Taliaferro and his sons are all republicans. Mr. Taliaferro is one of the early settlers; has a wide circle of acquaintances and friends; stands high socially, professionally, and politically.



ISAAC NEWTON BASSETT was born in Lewis county, Kentucky, September 8, 1825. His early life was spent on his father's farm, where he received such educational advantages as were afforded by the common schools of that day. He tried merchandising for a while, but not finding it as remunerative as he had hoped, studied law, and has practiced for over thirty-five years, attaining a name and reputation throughout the state; one of prominence and honor of which he may well feel proud. In 1852 he removed to Mercer county, settling in Keithsburg, and as a member of the firm of Johnson, Willits & Bassett commenced the practice of law here. In 1855 he was elected county treasurer, holding the office for four years. He removed to Aledo in 1857 when the county seat was removed, and has ever since been a leading and honored resident of the village. In 1847 he married Miss Scienda T. Moore, by whom he had six children, five of whom are still living: Fletcher S., lieutenant United States navy; Thomas W., attorney at law, Lacqui Parle, Minnesota; Flora, wife of William N. Graham, cashier of Farmers' Bank, Aledo; Nota, and Lulu, both at home. His wife died in 1861. In 1862 he married Mrs. Caroline H. Yerty, a sister of J. E. Harroun, who had one child, Miss Clara, who is still at home, and who, with Miss Nota Bassett, is conducting a book, stationery and millinery business, under name of Bassett & Yerty. By his second wife Mr. Bassett has had four children, two of whom have died; Victor Hugo, a boy of eleven years, and Bessie, a girl of eight years. From 1847 to 1870, he was connected with the Methodist Episcopal church, but in the latter year joined the Congregationalists, to which he still belongs. He has also been a Mason for many years. While not what is termed rich, Mr. Bassett has made for himself a good home, surrounded by the comforts and luxuries of life. His family hold a leading and enviable position in society, and in the church which is honored by their membership. Mr. Bassett is at present the senior member of the firm of Bassett & Wharton, the latter now serving his second term as state's attorney, and they enjoy a large and lucrative practice in the circuit, appellate, state, and federal courts.

SAMUEL MARQUIS was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, October 2, 1834, and is a son of Thomas and Sarah Ann (Lysle) Marquis. His early life was spent on a farm, where he received a common school education, or so much of one as could be obtained during the winter months. His mother died about thirty years ago, and his father died in Galva, Kansas, in 1880. In 1855 he came west, stopping for a while in Davenport, Iowa, and in 1857 he came to this county, locating on the home farm in Mercer township. In 1862 he settled in Aledo, and went into the dairy business, in which he has

ever since been engaged. He was married to Miss Anna Signor, November 16, 1867. They have had six children, all of whom are still living: James Lorell, Dappie, Sarah Kate, Vance, Carrie, and Maynard M. Mr. Marquis is industrious, honest and conscientious, and while not wealthy he has acquired a comfortable home and his business is sure and safe, fairly remunerative and free from great risks or temptation to speculation. He is a good citizen; one of the kind to honor the place of his residence.

JAMES H. CONNELL was born in Toronto, Canada, November 5, 1843. His father's name was William Connell, his mother's Isabella Leishman. They were both born in Scotland, and moved to Canada in 1842. In 1848 they moved to Chicago and from there to Sycamore, DeKalb county, Illinois, in 1849. Mr. Connell's education is such as he received at the Sycamore high school and a commercial college in Chicago. He worked in the "True Republican" office, in Sycamore, three years; went to Chicago in 1861, and kept books in the wholesale drug house of H. Scovil. In 1864 he enlisted in Co. F, 132d reg. Ill. Inf., and served until the war closed. He went to Aledo in 1865, at the close of the war, and studied law in the office of J. R. and I. N. Bassett, and was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Illinois, in March, 1868. He then went into partnership with I. N. Bassett, in March of that year, and continued until January, 1874. He was married to Lallie Arthur June 8, 1870. She is the daughter of Mrs. M. C. Geiger, and step daughter of John Geiger, of Aledo, Illinois. Mr. Connell was appointed master in chancery, of Mercer county, Illinois, in November 1879, and resigned the same in May, 1882. He owned the abstract books of Mercer county, from 1868 to 1874, with I. N. Bassett, and from 1874 to May, 1882, was sole proprietor, when he sold them to B. C. and R. B. Taliaferro. He was one of the originators of the Mercer County Scientific and Historical Association, and was elected secretary of the association when it was organized, and was re-elected from year to year until the spring session, 1882, when he declined further election as he was preparing to move to Colorado. He was tendered the position of attorney-general of Montana, by President Garfield, in 1881, but declined the office. In August, 1881, he formed a partnership with Senator B. C. Taliaferro, and dissolved the same in May, 1882, for the purpose of removing to another field farther west. He left Aledo in May, 1882, and moved to Pueblo, Colorado, where he is now engaged in the practice of law. To Mr. Connell, as one of the members and secretary of the historical society, the publishers are under many obligations, and much of what



is valuable in this work is due to his kindness. Mr. Connell carries with him to his new home the good wishes of numerous friends.

WILLIAM H. GLADMAN, New Windsor, was born in Fulton county, Illinois, July 30, 1843. His father, Washington B. Gladman, was a native of Ohio, and was among the early pioneers of Fulton county in this state, having come to that county about the year 1820, where he resided until the spring of 1853. He removed to Henry county, Iowa, where he died in the fall of the same year. His mother, whose maiden name was Catherine Drumm, was a native of Virginia, and survived her husband until 1879. In 1862 William H. enlisted in Co. K, 25th reg. Iowa Vol. Inf., commanded by Col. Stone, and served with that regiment in the Fifteenth Army Corps until the close of the war. He was in twenty-three engagements and escaped without a scratch until the last one, which was at Bentonville, North Carolina, where he received a slight wound in the shoulder. When mustered out of the army he returned to his old home in Henry county, Iowa, remaining there until the following year (1866), when he removed to Oneida, Illinois, where, in connection with his brother, he established a wagon and carriage shop. In 1869 he moved to New Windsor, where he engaged in the same business, which he has continued until the present time. Mr. Gladman is a man of excellent natural mechanical ability, being able to do what but very few men can accomplish, namely: manufacture a carriage complete, doing the work of the wheelwright, the blacksmith, the painter, the top builder, the trimmer, and upholsterer, and when done it will compare favorably in quality, style and finish with the workmanship of specialists in any of the departments. He was married April 16, 1868, in Oneida, Illinois, to Miss Lizzie T. Conyers, who was a native of Bath county, Kentucky. Her father, Thomas Conyers, was a native of the same county and state, and died there when only twenty-five years old, shortly before the birth of his daughter, which event occurred August 4, 1843. On this account her mother gave her the name of her father for a second name. Her mother, whose maiden name was Nancy Kerns, was a native of Bourbon county, Kentucky. She came from Kentucky to Oneida in 1864, and now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Gladman, in New Windsor. A sister of Mrs. Gladman also makes her home with her. Mr. and Mrs. Gladman have four children living: Emma F., born January 25, 1870; William K., born December 16, 1871; Lucy E., born April 29, 1873; Nellie A., born January 4, 1876.

JOHN C. PEPPER was born in Cambridgeshire, England, September 21, 1829. He came to this country with his parents when about seven years of age, the family settling at Amboy, Oswego county, New

York, where he passed his early life. When sixteen he left home to attend the academy at Vernon, New York, where he remained two years, after which he entered the Wayne County Institute, pursuing his studies there three summers, and teaching school during the winter seasons. In 1848 failing health induced him to come west; and after staying a year in Peoria he settled in Keithsburg, where he was admitted to the bar January 6, 1851. In the same month he celebrated his nuptials with Miss Mary Ann Martin, who has borne him seven children, three of whom are deceased. In 1862 he raised Co. II, 84th reg. Ill. Vol.; being elected captain, he commanded his company with deserved credit at Stone river, and was three times wounded in that battle. Since 1869 he has resided in Aledo. In 1880 Capt. Pepper ran as an independent candidate for circuit judge, but failed of election. During the last two years he has been earnestly and prominently engaged in the temperance movement in this state. With the coöperation of a few friends he started the Illinois State Temperance Alliance, and was president of the organization from September, 1880, till January, 1882, when it was consolidated with the Illinois State Christian Temperance Union, under the name of the Illinois State Temperance Union.

Dr. ELISHA L. MARSHALL was born near Trenton, New Jersey, September 24, 1823; was educated at City University, of New York, and located at Keithsburg, Illinois, August, 1850, at which place he still remains in practice of his profession; was connected with the 84th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., as a medical officer in the war of 1861. As a practitioner of medicine and surgery, Dr. Elisha L. Marshall stands deservedly high in the estimation of all, and not the least so in the estimation of his professional brethren. But it is in the department of surgery, perhaps, that the doctor has done his best work, and earned his highest triumphs. But few practitioners outside the larger cities have done a larger number of intricate and capital operations, or met with a more uniform success in operative surgical procedures than has the subject of this sketch. His close observations of pathological conditions, his success in weighing the relations of cause and effect, and his almost intuitive judgment and decision at the bed-side, have secured for him a reputation as consulting physician and surgeon second to none in the county. Generous and hospitable in his home circle, courteous and affable in every day life, strong and enduring in his personal friendships, thorough in his professional attainments, earnest in his warfare against disease, with an almost chivalric fidelity to the sick and afflicted consigned to his care, Dr. Marshall has stamped the



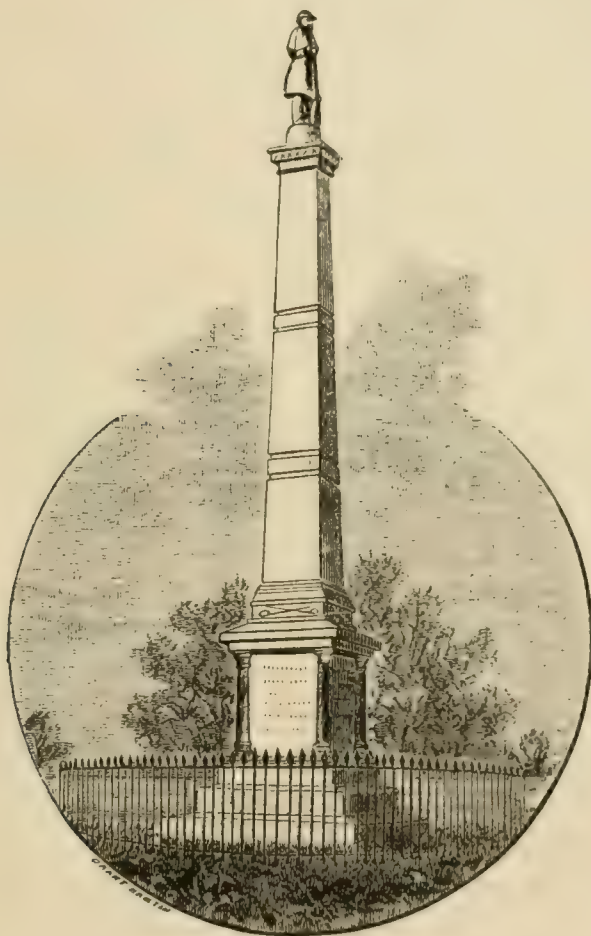
impress of his stalwart individuality upon the history and daily life of the large community in which he has lived and labored for nearly the third of a century.

As the oldest physician and earliest settler as such now resident of this county, we offer the subjoined sketch of the professional life of Dr. THOMAS T. WILLITS, who was born in the state of Ohio December 6, 1805; spent the early part of his professional life in the state of Indiana, removing from that state and establishing himself in the vicinity of his present home in 1837, his first location being had a few miles southeast of Keithsburg, at the base of the Mississippi bluffs, at which place he remained in the practice of his profession up to 1840, at which time he removed to the town of New Boston, where he still resides. Dr. Willits has thus been actively engaged in the practice of his profession for a period of about fifty-four years, forty-five years of which time has been spent, practically, in the same community of people, thus actively in the same avocation for nearly the half century in which he has lived and labored with the co-workers of his profession, inaugurating its inception, as it were; moving ever in its front ranks; stamping the impress of his own ideas and thoughts upon others with whom he came in contact; all of whom, as members of the medical fraternity, having acknowledged the chieftainship of their great leader and awarded to him the chief place of teacher, tutor and friend, delight to honor him as "the noblest Roman of them all." Having attained more than the allotted "three score and ten" of years, we find him to-day in the fullest possession of a mind sturdy, clear and unclouded, with all of his wonderful power of intellection, without a seeming shadow as reflected from the vast accumulation of hours, days and years since he first saw the light. We have but recently had the pleasure of passing a few hours in the society of the subject of our sketch, and although impressed with something of a knowledge of the grandeur of the old veteran's character, through the representations of friends who have known him long and well, we cannot but add our own great admiration of this venerable man, all of which we will try to condense into the one sentence of much meaning when we write that in the person of Dr. Willits we have a fine specimen of an almost extinct species of the *genus homo*, "the typical old school gentleman."

## THE MONUMENT, AND THE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' ASSOCIATION.

CONTRIBUTED BY L. B. DOUGHTY.

The history of the monument is so interwoven with that of the association, that it would be incomplete if treated separately; but a history of the association would necessarily include all that can be told of the monument. As one who has been intimately connected with the movement looking to the erection of the monument from its incipency up to the present time, we will endeavor to give a brief and concise history, albeit, much that we might wish to say must necessarily be omitted.



THE MONUMENT.

About the last of May, 1875, some half a dozen ex-soldiers casually met, and one of their number suggested that it would be a good thing to have a soldiers' reunion at our next fair. After some informal discussion it was decided to call a meeting of the ex-soldiers to further discuss the question, and the Aledo "Record" of June 2, contained a call for a meeting in Aledo on June 11, which call was also published



in all the county papers. The day proved wet and disagreeable and the attendance was small. An adjournment was had to July 1, when the attendance was much larger, but mainly from the central portion of the county. Desiring that the entire county should participate in the arrangements, it was deemed best to call a delegate meeting, and all the townships were requested to choose delegates from among their ex-soldiers to represent them at a meeting on August 12, 1875. At this meeting nine of the fifteen townships were represented.

Up to this time the object contemplated was only a reunion, and possibly the formation of a permanent association, but on August 4 the "Record" published a communication from R. H. Day, of Millersburg township, suggesting that steps be taken to erect a monument, and the suggestion met at once with popular favor. At the meeting on the 12th a number of short speeches were made in its favor, committees appointed to solicit funds, and the amount fixed, to be asked for, at \$20,000. A temporary organization was effected, with the following officers: president, Maj. D. W. Sedwick, of Suez; vice-president, J. E. Harroun; secretary, Capt. E. B. David; corresponding secretary, L. B. Doughty; treasurer, J. E. Gilmore; the last four all of Aledo.

It being deemed inadvisable to hold a reunion during the fair, October 15 was chosen as the date, and the necessary committees were appointed to make proper arrangements. It was hoped that the money could be raised and the monument be erected by July 4, 1876. The work of procuring a list of the soldiers from this county who had fallen in the service, was placed in the hands of the officers, who in turn delegated it to the writer. We procured a list from the adjutant general's office in Springfield, but it was necessarily incomplete, and full of errors, and in order to secure its correction we published it in the "Record" and "Banner," for a number of weeks, adding names and making corrections as received. The list first appeared in the "Record," of October 13, 1875. Reports were received from canvassers from time to time, and it became evident that \$20,000 was too much to ask for, and at a meeting of the executive committee on September 28, it was decided to reduce the figures to \$8,000 or \$10,000.

The re-union was very largely attended. Through the courtesy of the adjutant general, we were permitted the use of the battle flags of the different regiments represented, and the history of the flags, given briefly by those who fought under them, was one of the most interesting features of the occasion. Rev. S. Brink made the address, and was followed briefly by Hon. A. J. Streeter. Permanent organization was effected, with the following officers: president, D. W. Sedwick;

vice-president, W. O. Dungan ; secretary, E. B. David ; corresponding secretary, Eli Detwiler ; treasurer, J. E. Gilmore. Books were opened, and 110 ex-soldiers registered their names as members. Constitution was adopted and the "Soldiers and Sailors Association" was inaugurated. When the meeting adjourned it was to meet again in reunion on July 4, 1876, at the unveiling of the monument, if it was ready to unveil. Mr. Detwiler declined to serve as corresponding secretary, and the writer was appointed by the executive committee at their first meeting. On March 7, 1876, Major R. W. McClaughrey, warden Illinois state penitentiary, delivered an address in the court-house, in the interest of the monument, and in the evening of the same day spoke in Viola. Meetings were held at different points in the county, but the work of raising funds was slow, and on April 28 the executive committee employed Mr. Hiram Parkman to make a thorough canvass of the county ; and local canvassers were employed from time to time. In order that the association might purchase and hold grounds for the monument, it was incorporated under the general laws of the state, the charter being issued August 21, 1876. This rendered some changes necessary in the constitution, which were made accordingly. We give the following sections relating to the object and membership :

*"Preamble.*—We, the undersigned, desiring to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades and friends, do unite in forming a permanent association for that purpose.

*"Article I. Title.*—This association shall be known by the name and title of "The Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Mercer County."

*"Article II. Object.*—The object of this association shall be the erection and keeping in repair of a monument to the memory of the deceased soldiers and sailors of Mercer county, Illinois, and to buy and hold land for that purpose.

*"Article III. Membership.*—*Section 1.* All honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the United States army and navy, residing within the limits of Mercer county, and all who have contributed, or may hereafter contribute to the monument fund, shall be eligible to membership in this association.

*"Sec. 3.* Honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, residing without the limits of the association, may become members of the association and entitled to all the privileges of members belonging to this county."

On March 11, 1877, a design was selected by the committee, and on the 23d bids were received and opened. W. W. Webster, of Muscatine, received the award, his being the lowest of nine bids. His figures were \$3,110. The highest was \$4,635. From the "Market



Road," a little paper then published by W. C. Galloway, we quote the following description and remarks :

#### THE PLAN OF THE MONUMENT.

In order to give as correct a description of the monument as possible, we condense from the contract with Mr. Webster the following : The foundation shall be eleven feet square at base, and ten feet six inches square at top, and seven feet deep from top to base ; to be built of good sandstone, of suitable kind and dimension, laid in cement mortar, in a substantial manner. The first base proper of the monument shall be of the best Joliet limestone, ten feet square and eight inches deep or thick. It may be of four pieces or more, finely cut. The second base shall be of the best Joliet limestone, eight feet square and ten inches thick, to be of four pieces finely cut. The third base shall be of the best Joliet limestone, six feet square and one foot thick, and to be in one solid piece, finely cut. All of the monument above the third base to be of the best Italian marble for monuments, to be finished with pumice finish, except the granite column, which shall be of red Missouri granite, with glass finish. The plinth for die shall be four feet nine inches square and one foot two inches thick. The die shall be three feet six inches square and four feet high, and after the columns of granite shall be put on corners, the faces of die shall be at least two feet nine inches wide. The caps of granite columns shall be six inches in length and eight inches in diameter. The granite columns shall be three feet long, and six inches in diameter at base and five and one-half inches at top. The plinth of granite columns shall be nine inches in diameter and six inches thick. The die cap shall be four feet six inches square, and one foot two inches thick. The spire shall be two feet six inches square at base and one foot eight inches at top, and fifteen feet in length, exclusive of bands on cap, to be made in three sections of suitable length for good taste. The two bands between the sections of the spire shall each be of the same size at spire, and one foot thick or high. The cap of spire shall be two feet six inches square, and one foot three inches thick. The statue of soldier shall be six feet eight inches in length above column cap, size in proportion. Position in parade rest. The total height from foundation to be thirty-five feet two inches. On the plinth of die shall be in raised letters, this motto,

MERCER COUNTY  
TO HER FALLEN SONS.  
1861 to 1865.

The names of soldiers on die shall be by regiment and company. Size of letters, three-fourths of an inch in length and of suitable proportion. On the four squares of the plinth of spire shall be carvings or figures of sailors or mariners, cavalry, artillery and infantry in raised figures. On the four squares of the band on spire shall be the names of the battles in raised letters. On cap of spire shall be raised stars. All the mouldings, shapes, etc., shall be finished in good taste, artistic skill and workmanship. The granite columns shall be dowel-pinned to cap and plinth of column, also cap of column and plinth of column to cap of die and plinth of die by half-inch brass rods three inches long. The foundation to be raised two feet above the surface; to be well banked up to top and nicely swarded over. These shall be enclosed by a circular iron fence, eighteen feet in diameter, to be made in a plain, substantial manner of wrought iron, with cast points on each picket, etc. The monument to be completed by the first day of November, 1877.

The foregoing account is complete as to how it was to be. The executive committee met October 30, 1877, inspected the monument and unanimously accepted it, showing that Mr. Webster had fulfilled the contract.

The ground chosen for the location is in the north one-half of block 57, village of Aledo, immediately south of block owned by the county, on which are situated the fire-proof county offices. The price paid for ground was \$400. The street running between the blocks will be vacated by the village as soon as all arrangements can be completed, and the whole ground enclosed and used as a park. Trees will be planted and walks laid out, and in a few years it will look like the beautiful hallowed place it should be.

After its erection the executive committee had a considerable job in deciding when to have the dedication and unveiling exercises. The near approach of winter and prospective bad weather helped them to decide to postpone it till July 4, 1878, and then to make an effort to have such a gathering and exercises as would long be remembered.

The directors this year are D. W. Sedwick, E. B. David, H. B. Frazier, J. Y. Merritt, and H. Parkman, and it is not too much to say that they who have taken so much interest in the cause and spent a great deal of time are among the happiest that the work is so near done, and that soon every citizen of the county can point with equal pride and say "'tis ours." But the people cannot soon forget that it is to the untiring energy of the leaders of this movement that it resulted in success at all.

April 30, 1878, the directors held a meeting to take preliminary



steps for the unveiling of the monument July 4, and it was decided to hold a grand reunion, in which all the citizens of the county were cordially invited to participate, and all soldiers and their friends from adjoining counties. The secretary announced that Maj.-Gen. John A. Logan had been engaged to deliver the address.

In addition to the publication of the list for corrections in 1875, it was re-published during the summer of 1877, week after week, and we believe it to be as nearly correct as it is possible to make it.

The reunion and unveiling on July 4, 1878, was an occasion well worth remembering. The citizens of Aledo and vicinity joined with the executive committee of the association in making the preparations, and everything was perfect. The gathering was the largest ever held in the county for any purpose whatever, the number being estimated fairly at 12,000 to 15,000. Through the courtesy of Col. W. D. Flagler, commander at Rock Island arsenal, and of the secretary of war, a section of artillery, manned by a sergeant and eight men, were sent from the arsenal and lent their aid in the observances of the day. Gen. Logan made a grand address; the monument was unveiled, toasts given and responded to, and the usual exercises followed, the whole enlivened by music from one of the many bands in attendance. It was at once a reunion and a celebration, and as such was enjoyed by all participants.

It would be a pleasure to give a list of the subscribers to the monument fund, but that is impossible, and we will mention none, for many who gave but little, gave, like the widow with her mite, "more than all these" whose gifts were much larger. One source of revenue, however, from which nearly one-fourth of the entire amount raised was realized, will bear brief mention as the "tax-list fund."

In the fall of 1875 the publishers of the "Record" offered, under certain conditions, to donate the proceeds of the tax list for the next year to the monument fund. A spirit of rivalry led O. P. Arthur, of the "Banner," to offer the proceeds for two years, if the list was given to him. His offer was accepted, and the amount realized was over \$600. In the spring of 1879 Porter & Bigelow, of the "Record," published the list, and gave \$100 of the proceeds to the fund, to be used in fencing the grounds. The same spring P. F. Warner, who then owned the "Banner," proposed to give \$100 to the fund, providing enough was subscribed within thirty-four months to pay off the debt of the association. The money was raised; he paid the \$100, and published the tax list the next spring. Thus the tax-list fund amounted to over \$800.

The monument grounds are enclosed with a neat fence, and have

been set to grass and planted with evergreens. They, with the beautiful marble shaft, will ever prove a monument to the patriotism of our citizens, living and dead.

The Soldiers and Sailors' Association has not yet finished its mission. Now that it can point with pride to one of the most beautiful monuments in the state, its further work is to care for, protect and beautify the grounds whereon it stands.

The directors for the present year are the same as those last mentioned, and the officers are: D. W. Sedwick, president; J. Y. Merritt, vice-president; E. B. David, secretary; L. B. Doughty, corresponding secretary; D. T. Hindman, treasurer. The grounds are in charge of the resident officers: H. Parkman, and secretary and treasurer. The association is out of debt, has a small balance in the treasury, and there is a considerable amount due in unpaid subscription notes, which will be used, when collected, in improving the grounds.

We can not more fittingly close this article than by giving some extracts from General Logan's dedicatory address, at the unveiling, and giving with it the names upon the monument:

"My friends, this monument that we unveil to-day in commemoration of the virtue and patriotism of the 357 soldiers who fell in the late war, in defense of the principles sanctified by our revolutionary sires, speaks to the world in more eloquent strains than can be uttered by any living orator; eloquence is not often prompted by depth of feeling, nor as a rule do figures of rhetoric issue from sad and tender recollections. Perhaps one who had less of the *personal* remembrance than myself, might commemorate this event in more fitting language, but none there are whose tribute to the dead has a seat nearer to the heart than the soldier who has felt the warm touch of the comrade's elbow in the fight, and has seen that comrade yield up his life upon the altar of their common principle. Were this the appropriate time, nothing could afford me deeper satisfaction than to trace the career of every soldier whose name is written upon this stone; and to recount in the fullest manner the personal history of each one who contributed his part to the privations and sacrifices of a soldier to his country's cause, and sealed the deed thereto by the red drops of life's precious current. You will pardon me, however, if in refraining from the detail which each is entitled to in order to prove the full obligation of posterity, I trace a hasty sketch of the organization, progress and achievements of the gallant band of which the fallen dead of Mercer county, with their brave comrades who are here to honor their memories to-day, formed so important a part. After the general rendezvous at Cairo, in 1861, the engagement at Belmont found among others, as



participants, the twenty-second Illinois infantry, the twenty-seventh and the thirtieth, in which regiments were some of the soldiers furnished by Mercer county, whose names are now upon this column.

“From Belmont to Forts Henry and Donelson, where so many brave fellows found an untimely death; and on to Shiloh and Corinth, at which latter place I had the honor to command a brigade, constituted partly of the thirtieth and forty-fifth Illinois. Of the thirtieth and forty-fifth regiments, many names of the Mercer county boys are engraved upon the memorial tablets which we unveil to-day.

“The memorable Mississippi campaign, which finally culminated in the fall of Vicksburg, furnished more deaths to the cause of the union, and among these more names for future inscription upon the monument which Mercer county now erects to her sons. Within my command during that campaign were, among others, the thirtieth, forty-fifth, and one hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois infantry.

“To the gallant men then composing my command was assigned the honor of taking possession of Vicksburg, upon its surrender, just fifteen years ago to-day, an honor not lightly esteemed by those who, at Champion Hills, fought and won one of the sharpest, fiercest, and most brilliant victories of the campaign, the importance of which, in the subsequent fall of Vicksburg, can only be estimated by a demonstration of the enemy in a precipitate retreat to their stronghold, destined so soon to fall into our hands. Afterward, upon taking command of the Fifteenth Army Corps, the following regiments of Illinois troops, partly made up from Mercer county, embraced a part of my command: The Twenty-Sixth, Thirtieth, Forty-Fifth, and Forty-eighth Illinois infantry. At a subsequent period I commanded the army of the Tennessee, made up of regiments of infantry, cavalry, and batteries of artillery from the States of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Among the regiments from the other states mentioned were thirty-eight from Illinois, and among these, made up in part from Mercer county, were the Ninth, Twenty-Sixth, Thirtieth, Forty-Fifth, Forty-Eighth, and One Hundred and Twenty-Fourth Illinois infantry, and of and from these are many of the names in the roll of honor inscribed on this monument, and with these names are many from other and different commands, who were equally brave and patriotic, and entitled alike to all honor and all praise. The famous march to Atlanta and to the sea has passed into history as one of the most brilliant campaigns, considered in detail and as a whole, which has ever been recorded in the annals of war. The pen of the historiographer has drawn the picture of that campaign in outline, and has attempted

to throw in the details of individual action. Its general results were soon felt and realized, when the army which had cut the confederacy in two were advancing from the south to meet their comrades under the conqueror of the Potomac, who was driving everything before his invincible hosts. The result in general, I say, has been outlined, and some attempt has been made to do justice in detail. So far as the officers, who justly won distinction on those memorable fields, are concerned, the attempt has been as successful, perhaps, as might from the nature of things be expected. But the sufferings, privations, hardships, stubborn perseverances, remarkable and unexcelled gallantry of the heroes in the ranks, can never receive the record to which they are entitled, though we may freely accord the meed of praise, which, regarding the results of their united efforts, hails them as the saviors of this country. From the intrepid conduct at Resacca, as also at Dallas, at both places the command of which the most of your troops were a part, took the brunt of the movement; through the assault on Kenesaw mountain, with its abattis and earthworks, and cross fire of artillery, bullets, rocks and stones, to the celebration of the Fourth of July, 1864, by an artillery fight with Johnson's rear guard; from this to the desperate struggle before Atlanta, which eventuated in the fall of that city, where, on July 22, one of the great battles of the war was fought. No pen can describe it in detail, and no orator's vivid imagination can make the mind comprehend the scene. Then through the campaign of the Carolinas with increased hardships, in swamps and streams, through Columbia, Goldsboro, Fayetteville, and Raleigh, where the close of the war occurred, the same lofty spirit of patience under suffering, of hope under discouragement, of increased determination under disappointment, of invincible resolution to win or die, characterized them to a degree which stamped them as patriots worthy of this great country. In thus particularizing the patriotism of the Illinois troops which fell under my more immediate charge and supervision, I have no purpose to discriminate against the gallant soldiers from other states, who also formed a part of the army. As 'Agamemnon found it an invidious affair to give the preference to any one of the Grecian heroes,' so should any one of us find it impossible to draw distinctions between union soldiers fighting for the perpetuity of their government.

"But, my friends, we are here to-day not alone in the acknowledgment of the services of those who periled their lives for their country, but to dedicate a monument in testimony of the gratitude of the neighbors, immediate friends and fellow soldiers of those who gave up that for which a man will barter all other things, *his life*; a monument which we hope shall stand so long as the principles of free government,



and the patriotism which this shaft proclaims is venerated by the American people.

"The roll of honor bearing the names of Mercer county's heroes who fell in defense of their country during the years from 1861 to 1865, and which are transcribed in imperishable letters upon the beautiful monument we are about unveiling, has been placed in my hands and I now avail myself of the privilege of having them read to you."

The names of the fallen soldiers, inscribed upon the monument, were here read by Mr. J. C. Wharton, and were as follows:

*Ninth Reg., Company E.*—Joseph B. Jones, Calvin Martin, Wm. D. Nevius, Augustus B. Cox, Geo. M. Gilmore, J. N. Shoemaker, Jesse Mock, A. T. Waterbury, Frank M. Moore, James Havertield, John Morehead, Wm. P. Kelley, John Beatty.

*Seventeenth Reg., Company I.*—James Phelps, John W. Nelson, Wm. Noris, James M. Findley, Thos. T. Timmons, Geo. W. Elliott, Erastus M. Gruell, Sam. C. Willett, Albert Beach, George Hardy, Geo. W. Kingen, Chris. B. Simmons, Nathan T. Griffin, Thos. S. Robinson, M. H. Anthony, Jesse Sumner, James A. Scott, Chris. Middler, Wm. H. Davis, Henry France, Elija Myers, John F. White, Samuel Boyce, Henry Y. Coeway, Matthew S. McCoy, John W. Miles, Wm. Voorhees, W. Dryden.

*Twenty-second Reg., Company K.*—Robert Scott, Joseph Straub.

*Twenty-sixth Reg., Company C.*—James W. Brown, David A. Byler, William D. Bonge, Orson C. Follett, John C. Gaston, John U. Kourt, James L. Reed, John B. Shirder, Granville Goodson, Jacob Aull, William A. Blizzard, William G. Fenton, Obadiah Goodson, Nicholas Kile, Isaiah F. Pollett, John Senn, Chris. Marguth.

*Twenty-seventh Reg., Company G.*—Joseph S. Briner, William Fortner, Charles White, Hugh M. Love, Charles E. Thompson, Andrew L. Smith, Michael L. Sadler, Mahlon Boyd, Calvin Gibson, Joseph Manual, James C. Sisk, Amisa Wood, Benjamin Craig, Jefferson Mosby, J. Van Meter, John C. Webber, Charles Etherton, William D. Malaby, Joseph Shalich, Gilbert Fortner, Michael Lalley, A. H. Ryan, J. F. Thornton, W. W. Wilcox.

*Thirtieth Reg., Company A.*—Henry Arnett, Benjamin Bell, James E. Brown, Robert R. Crist, H. J. Peters, John Gilmore, Phil. R. Alexander, Isaac M. Home, J. P. Paxton, N. R. Kirkpatrick, William Gardener, John P. Mitchell, John Smith, Samuel Whitham, Perry Paxton, William Lowe, T. B. Moore, William Adams, Henry Bistline, Samuel Cook, Robert H. Davis, Phineas S. Synder, George W. Hill, John Cannum, S. McIntire, Charles N. Shull, John P. Instead, William P. Kimel, Charles C. Dennis, Abner G. Titus, Thomas Home.

David A. Felton, William G. McGaw, M. Quinlan. *Company G.*—Joseph R. Humbert, Levi Jackson, Van C. Ogle, Albert A. Holland, J. Wesley Mann, James Ogle, G. W. Rice, John Garrett, James Burnett, James W. Ditto, J. Cook Brisbane, Stephen F. Moler, Sam. D. Boden, William C. Kelley, William C. Bickett, James W. Purdum, Alvah Shumway, William W. Humbert, John Ogle. *Company K.*—Samuel Ebner.

*Thirty-sixth Reg., Company C.*—Jackson Caldwell, Rich. Godfrey, Samuel N. Wilson, Nathan McCutcheon, Thomas R. Pollock, William Shearer, H. Buchanan, Hugh Shearer, F. Ingles. *Company B.*—Bruce Brownlee. *Company A.*—Thomas Moore.

*Thirty-seventh Reg., Company A.*—Francis Gannon, Andrew Wilson, Oran Cochran, I. K. Williams, John Dorrity, James Valentine, Sylvester Mizner, William T. Little, Robert Armstrong, John C. Whitsel, Henry H. B. Clarke, J. W. Cathcart.

*Forty-fifth Reg., Company I.*—Robert Day, Levi Lunn, Benjamin Burleigh, William H. Sheriff, George W. Debord, William L. Green, I. F. Bridgford, Ira G. Smith, Benjamin Bryant, James Ebner, H. Wages, Thomas J. Miller, Samuel Gorman.

*Fifty-fifth Reg., Company F.*—W. Carus, W. Cozell. *Company I.*—E. M. Bruner.

*Fifty-eighth Reg., Company G.*—Daniel Knapp, William H. Mercer.

*Sixty-fifth Reg., Company B.*—George Fortner, John Hale, Lorenzo Wood, John M. Jones, H. J. Hanck, Robert Hampson, John McGaughey, James Hiers, George W. Shaunce, Henry Hiers.

*Eighty-third Reg., Company D.*—A. O. McCreight, George N. Marquis, John C. Woodham, James S. Stewart, James S. Eveland, D. M. Nevius, Erastus Kenney, Samuel G. McCreight, Francis M. Shearer, George Mitchell, James M. Veach, Amos Kenney.

*Eighty-fourth Reg., Company H.*—Luther T. Ball, Andrew J. Hellings, James J. Kidwell, Frederick Kemp, William Lipton, Peter Rotchrock, Edgar L. Spicer, Daniel Williams, Francis Whan, Francis Brown, W. W. McCandless, Joseph Ballien, Alonzo Guest, O. R. Personius, Andrew Jackson, John W. Sterling, F. M. Brown, H. E. Abercrombie, John M. Wiedner, John Diech, Bigalow Kile, L. McManus, George McPherran, Mack Tirney, H. Welliver, Robert Whan, John A. Preston, Almon Wilber, Michael Conway, John H. Gillespie, Marvin Sullivan, J. R. Eckley, George M. Haney. *Company C.*—William Whiting.

*One Hundred and Second Reg., Company A.*—John K. Holmes, Albert P. Cooper, Robert F. Carl, Eli Judd, William Miller, Oliver



N. Tyler, H. Butterfield, William H. Augustine, Alfred Boyd, John Edwards, Orlando Kenney, Arthur F. Sabin, Jacob A. Walton, J. Morann. *Company B.*—John Rich, Harvey Rogers. *Company C.*—Francis Freeman, George Huffman, Henry Herr, G. Bressmer, Edmund Kinsey, Charles Anderson, George Bahringer, M. McMullen. *Company E.*—Peter F. Cook, John R. Carmichael, John McCutcheon, Chauncey M. Royce, William Sevits, Albert C. Bridger, Seth Grayatt, Michael Oswalt, James C. Simpson, Rich. Brown, T. Simpson. *Company G.*—I. McManus, John C. Reynolds, W. W. Hibbs, John McHard, John S. Burnett, John Gibson, William P. Irwin, Richard M. Hoy, R. B. Seaton, D. W. King, R. H. Cabeen, Jared Y. Harris, Isaac T. Bridgford, L. H. Casebolt, Samuel Harvey, William T. Todd, A. T. Dopp, Samuel Parks, A. G. Henry. *Company K.*—Allen Wilson, Abram Fuller, S. D. Hutchinson, J. T. Collier, T. H. Hand, Peter O. Pierce, I. N. Stevenson, Moses White, Jr., Marvin R. Wright, William Volk, George W. Bartlett, James P. Hampton, Michael Bryant, M. Dagger, Albert Kiddoo, Noah Spicher, Jacob Shields, P. Waters Willett, William H. Hampton, E. Pierce.

*One Hundred and Twelfth Reg., Company C.*—John F. Barney, Ed. R. Petrie.

*One Hundred and Twenty-Fourth Reg., Company G.*—Lee James, Oliver G. Swafford, Amos C. Goddard, John Fitzgerald, George Middleton, Charles Shafer, Joseph S. Dungan, B. F. Noble, Levi Landreth, John T. Bates, John D. Linn, John Shaw, Henry Sloan, George Sloan.

*One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Reg., Company B.*—Henry Debaun, Isaac A. Linn, Andrew Landreth, J. Martindale, David Van Meter, James M. Rodgers, Jacob Fender, George Lavery, G. Landreth, James Swartwout, George Volkal.

*One Hundred and Fortieth Reg., Company F.*—Edward B. Harris, Jonathan Mounts, Joseph W. Shawyer, John W. Maury, Alfred F. Noble, Z. P. Warren.

*Eleventh Cavalry Reg., Company C.*—F. T. Crane, William H. Gilliam, B. F. Mahaney, Stephen Bartan, C. E. McIntyre, William J. Simpson.

*Miscellaneous.*—E. R. Cooper, 9th Ill. Cav., Co. A; D. A. Moler, 10th Ill. Cav., Co. C; Robert Morgan, 12th Ill. Cav., Co. G; George Edgerly, 8th Ill. Cav., Co. C; Silas Valentine, 14th Ill. Cav., Co. I; W. D. Swift, 9th Iowa Cav., Co. A; John Stevenson, 9th Iowa, Co. D; Samuel Boice, 9th Iowa, Co. D; G. L. Moore, 2d Iowa Cav., Co. A; H. M. Boone, 1st Col. Inf., Co. C; Eli C. Crosley, 1st Miss. Marine Brig.; Cyrus W. Trego, 8th Kan., Co. H; John A. Robinson,

8th Kan., Co. I; J. D. Ashenhurst, 8th Kan., Co. II; F. M. Carroll, 8th Kan., Co. II; John L. Arnold, 14th U. S. Inf., Co. I; J. W. Warwick, 155th Ill. Inf., Co. II; Edward Bruner, 55th Ill. Inf., Co. I; W. Kennedy, J. Alberson, M. Moroe, 7th Iowa Inf., Co. A; E. C. Crosley, 1st Miss. Marine Brigade; G. W. Nevius, Iowa Cav.; J. Reed, 93d Ill. Inf.; H. Billings, W. C. Cathcart, M. Hutchinson, C. M. Clarke, T. Campbell, A. D. Streeter, D. A. Felton, J. P. Insted, 7th Mo. Cav.; William Swarts, 29th Ill. Inf., Co. I; Luther Waterman, 2d Iowa Cav.; D. C. Bartlett, 9th Ill. Cav., Co. C; A. Cook, 51st Ill. Inf., Co. K.

Gen. Logan continued: "What a glorious roster to transmit to posterity! Well might there have been engraved upon the stone as representing the united sentiment of Mercer county, the memorable words of the Roman mother: 'These are my jewels.' Three hundred and fifty-seven men who deliberately walked up to the rebel cannon's mouth, and swore upon their lives that the union of our fathers should be preserved! That oath was registered on high, and it has been graven upon the works of men. It is here as the indorsement of our generation. May it stand for more than a thousand years, to re-echo it through the future centuries. Three hundred and fifty-seven heroes about represent in number the Spartan band under Leonidas who defended the pass of Thermopylæ, and gave up their lives for their country. Let this monument speak to the coming ages, as did that of the Spartan heroes, in words which shall bid the traveler go tell their countrymen that they lie upon the field of battle in obedience to their country's welfare. Such a tribute as is conveyed by this beautiful work is an expression of the patriotism of the living in applauding the patriotism of the dead. It is a shaft to commemorate the virtue of the departed, but also signalizes the appreciation of virtue by the living. To the dead it is a token of remembrance, to the living a testimony of character. Valuable as is this work of art, its worth is far greater to the living than to the dead. No panegyric which we may make can reach the body in its narrow house, nor the spirit in that land where the clash of arms and sound of strife mar not the unbroken peace. But to the living it stands as the representative of a sentiment; it is a declaration of principle, it ratifies a past act, it proclaims a future policy, it enunciates in words which cannot be mistaken the patriotism of Americans and their determination to perpetuate their free institutions, and to uphold their motto of "Many in One." It is a token of grief for the departed, but it is also a warning to those who remain! It is a tear of sorrow for the slain, but the promise of punishment to the future slayer. The men whose names we are here



to-day to honor are forever hidden from our view beneath their mother earth, but from their sacrificed bodies this column rises as a tree from the root, and gives another illustration of the truth of the aphorism sanctioned by all the ages of the past, that 'the blood of the martyr is the seed of the church.' Here we understand the purport of this monument and the motive which prompted its creation. As fellow-citizens of our great commonwealth, as friends, we are here to drop a tear of sorrow over our loss, and to extend the word of comfort to the weeping relatives, whose loss is greater than our own. . . .

"Does this mass of people come here to-day in obedience to a meaningless formality, or is their presence the representative of a sentiment? Shall these names upon this monument stand as the simple enumeration of 357 unfortunates who rashly rushed to their death? Or shall they receive the homage of that tribute so beautifully rendered in the lines of the poet Collins :

"How sleep the brave who sink to rest,  
By all their country's wishes blest;  
By fairy hand their knell is rung,  
By forms unseen their dirge is sung;  
Their honor comes, a pilgrim gray,  
To bless the turf that wraps their clay,  
And freedom shall awhile repair,  
To dwell a weeping hermit there.'

"Fellow-citizens of Mercer county, you have done a noble act ; you have proven that you worthily belong to that great bulwark of our nation's safety, its citizen soldiery. At the sound of danger you left the pursuits of peace and threw yourselves into the breach of war, and when you conquered a principle, you erected an enduring shaft of honor to those who have lost their lives in maintaining it. As one who stood upon the field with those brave fellows, I am here to re-echo your declaration, that their deaths have not been *in vain*. I am here to mingle my sorrow with yours, and to say, come weal, come woe, I am with you to the end in placing the flag of our country so high as to be beyond the reach of its despoilers, which, in proudly floating on the breeze, shall say to all the world : '*Here dwells the undivided nation of peace.*'"

## SIXTY-FIFTH REGIMENT, COMPANY B.

This was called the "Scotch Regiment," from the number of that nationality who marched in its ranks. It was organized at Camp Douglas, Chicago, by Col. Daniel Cameron, Jr., and mustered for service May 1, 1862. In company B were thirty-eight soldiers from Mercer county, belonging to the townships of Greene, Mercer, Millersburg, Preemption, and New Boston. The regiment was ordered to Martinsburg, Virginia; and when Col. Miles surrendered at Harper's Ferry, September 15, it was among the prisoners taken. Being next day paroled, it returned to Chicago and remained there till April, 1863, when, having been exchanged, it was ordered to the Eastern Kentucky army, and, returning to Camp Nelson via Cincinnati, joined Burnside's expedition into East Tennessee for the purpose of co-operation with Gen. Rosecrans, who was at that time moving on Chattanooga. It fought at Knoxville November 25th and 29th, in the defense of that stronghold against Gen. Longstreet, and repulsed him with slaughter. The following winter was one of severe campaigning to this regiment. It "veteraned," and went home on furlough in March, 1864. On its return it overtook Sherman's army at Kingston, Georgia, and took its place in the second brigade, commanded by Col. Cameron, and the third division, Gen. J. D. Cox commanding, of Gen. Schofield's twenty-third corps. The 65th had a sharp encounter with the enemy between Lost and Kenesaw mountains, June 15, and skirmished briskly every day until the 20th, when fifty volunteers from the regiment charged across a bridge and drove the enemy's infantry and artillery in handsome fashion, and effected a permanent lodgment on the other side. It continued to fight with spirit until the close of the campaign, taking part in the flank movement around Atlanta and the battle of Jonesboro. It returned north in pursuit of Hood, and was transferred from Dalton to Nashville by rail. It then advanced as far south as Pulaski, and November 25th and 26th was engaged at Columbia, losing three officers and fifty men. On the 30th it received the attack of Hood's army at Franklin, and when the battle ended 200 of the rebel dead and wounded lay stretched in its front. It carried to Nashville that night the colors of the 15th Mississippi rebel regiment as a trophy of the conflict. An equal share with other troops was borne December 15th and 16th, in the battle of Nashville, and it went in pursuit of Hood's broken columns, pausing only when it had reached Clifton. From thence, January 15, 1865, it was transferred by boat and rail to Wilmington, North Carolina, assisting in the capture of that place.



At Sandtown creek it captured three cannon and 350 rebels. March 6 it went to Kingston. From there the first five companies, except veterans, were ordered to Chicago, to be mustered out. On the 21st it entered Goldsboro, where Sherman's columns from the south made connection with Schofield on the 23d. From Raleigh the non-veterans were sent home for muster-out, and the remainder of the regiment went to Greensboro. May 1 four companies of recruits were added; and, in June, four officers and 250 men of the 92d Illinois, two officers and 120 men of the 112th Illinois, and twenty-five men from the 107th Illinois were assigned to the 65th, and Lieut.-Col. Stewart was mustered as colonel. The regiment was mustered out, and started, July 13, for Chicago, where it arrived July 22, and from whence, after final payment, the discharged men returned to their homes.

#### EIGHTY-THIRD REGIMENT, COMPANY D.

Company D was enlisted in Mercer county, one-fourth of the members being from the southwest corner of Henry county. It was officered with Joshua M. Snyder, of Viola, as captain; Hugh M. Robb, of Mercer township, as first lieutenant; and Francis M. Sykes, of Oxford, second lieutenant. The regiment was organized at Monmouth, in August, 1862, by Col. Abner C. Harding, and was sworn into the service on the 21st. On the 25th it proceeded by Burlington and St. Louis to Cairo, and on September 3d moved to Fort Henry. On the 5th one-half of the regiment marched to Fort Donelson, three companies remaining at Fort Henry, and two at Fort Heiman. These subsequently moved to Donelson, and the 83d was stationed at that post until September 20, 1863, when the right wing was transferred to Clarksville. Roving bands of guerillas filled the country and lurked particularly on the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, and skirmishes were of frequent occurrence; some of these were especially severe, as the one at Waverly. In October, 1862, accompanied by other troops in pursuit of Gen. John H. Morgan, it had a sharp fight at Garrettsburg, Kentucky, and drove and punished the enemy severely. But it was on February 3, 1863, that it achieved its fame as a fighting regiment. Forrest was threatening the river communication at Palmyra, on the 2d, and Colonel Harding telegraphed to Paducah for re-inforcements, his garrison consisting of the meager force of nine companies of the 83d, a battalion of the 5th Iowa cavalry, Flood's battery, and a

few wounded men. Four rifled guns and a 32-pounder pivot siege gun, mounted on the northeast corner of the fort, comprised the battery.

At two o'clock on the afternoon of the 3d the enemy, coming down the river, confronted the fort on the east and began the attack in force, being 8,000 strong. The fort contained but a small supply of ammunition, and the men, instructed by their cool and calculating commander, husbanded what they had with effective care. They were directed to fire steadily and deliberately, so that every shot should count; while the battery was handled with skill and precision, single pieces being moved about as circumstances required. Col. Harding displayed the finest spirit and best judgment, and was at all points overseeing the defense (a defense sure to be historic), animating and encouraging his followers. The cavalry was dismounted and fighting on foot. The battle had raged with fury for several hours; in the meantime the rebels had made a number of ineffectual charges, supported by their artillery, which was skillfully used. At length a shout went up in the rebel lines, which told that they had completed the investment on the three sides undefended by the river. And now came a flag of truce from Gen. Wheeler demanding a surrender. This was promptly refused. Then followed a confident and furious onset of the enemy; in charge after charge the rebels rolled up against Harding's blazing line, but each time they staggered back with bleeding ranks. The artillery rained destruction upon the thick-set columns, and especially the 32-pounder was galling the foe with severity, when he decided upon its capture. Before the attempt was made a second flag was sent renewing the demand for a surrender, which was met with a firmer refusal, if that were possible, than before. A storming force advanced rapidly upon the saucy gun. The gunners double-shotted the piece and waited. When the assailants were close upon the works they swung it round, trained it full in their faces and let go the savage charge, which made a ghastly, gory lane through the solid formation of the terrified foe. They fled in complete rout. No further attempt was directed against the big gun.

At eight in the evening help came at the moment of extremity, when the rebels were massing for a final assault. When Col. Lowe at Paducah received Harding's appeal for succor his forces were away on a scout, but knowing that Capt. Fitch was going up the river with his fleet, he sent him word to coöperate with Col. Harding, and instructed the latter to hold the fort till dark, when assistance would reach him. Fitch divided his gunboats, and stationing a part above and the rest below the fort, while Harding ensconced his men in safe places out of



reach of the naval missiles, poured grape and shrapnel in enfilading and pitiless torrents into the writhing lines of rebels. They could not stand it. In twenty minutes not one, except slain and wounded, was left on the field. Of the former there were 250, of the latter 600. The besieged had taken 105 prisoners. The 83d had 13 killed, 51 wounded, 20 captured. Not long after, as a recognition of this gallant defense, Colonel Harding was wearing the single star of a brigadier. Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Smith was immediately promoted to the vacant colonelcy. The former soon resigned to accept a seat in congress. For nearly two years subsequent to the second battle of Fort Donelson the 83d was patrolling and guarding communications, of which it had not less than two hundred miles to protect, and at the same time was doing a heavy scouting service, which was prolific of much small fighting. In 1864, when Forrest and Wheeler were making daring efforts to sever Sherman's communications, the 83d formed a part of the efficient force so energetically employed by General Rousseau in driving those rebel leaders, with their commands, from Tennessee. In the winter of 1864-5 the regiment went to Nashville on provost duty, and on the 26th of June it was mustered out in that city, and on the 30th arrived in Chicago where it was finally paid and disbanded. Of 1,050 men who went to the field, 640 returned. The only change in the line officers of Company D was when second lieutenant Sykes resigned in August, 1864. Hugh B. Frazier, who had been promoted from the ranks to sergeant and then to first sergeant, was at once commissioned to fill the vacancy.

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#### ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH REGIMENT, COMPANY G.

This was sworn into the United States service at Camp Butler, September 10, 1862, with Col. Thomas J. Sloan in command. Company G was raised at New Boston by Lyman H. Scudder and Ezra S. Benedict, of that place, in the last half of July and the first part of August. The members were principally from New Boston township; some were residents of Eliza and Millersburg, and a very few of adjoining townships. The organization took place August 15, and the company was officered as follows: L. H. Scudder, captain; E. S. Benedict, first lieutenant; and Benton Pratt, second lieutenant. On the 28th, taking wagons, the company drove to Oquawka Junction,

then the nearest railroad station, and proceeded from there by way of Galesburg and Camp Point to Springfield. There each man received forty dollars in cash, this being one-fourth of the \$100 bounty, two dollars premium, and one month's pay of thirteen dollars, all tendered by the government. Uniforms and arms were drawn, the latter Austrian muskets, barely fit for practice in the manual of arms. On October 6, the regiment started for Cincinnati; but on arriving at Decatur the order was countermanded, and its destination was changed to Cairo, from whence it went to Jackson, Tennessee, arriving on the 9th. It advanced to La Grange November 4, and on the 28th, as a part of Gen. Grant's expedition to the Yocona river, drove the rebels across the Tallahatchie. The regiment had been assigned to the first brigade, Col. John E. Smith; third division, Gen. Logan; seventeenth corps, Gen. McPherson. Returning from the Yocona, it reached the Tallahatchie December 24, and La Grange January 7, 1863. The same month it marched to Memphis; from there it went, February 22, to Lake Providence; and April 18, moved to Milliken's Bend. It was reviewed on the 22d by Gov. Yates and staff, and on the 25th started on the Vicksburg campaign. It was in the engagement at Port Gibson (Thompson's Hill), May 1; Raymond, May 12; Jackson, May 14; Champion Hill, May 16; and the siege of Vicksburg, including the fearful assault of May 22, and the still more terrible one of June 26, when the mine at Fort Hill was sprung. The regiment went on the brief campaign to Monroe, Louisiana, under Gen. Stephenson, which left Vicksburg August 21, and returned September 2. From October 14 to the 20th, it was with Gen. McPherson on the Brownville campaign, and participated in the battles at that place on the 16th and 17th.

In January, 1864, the 124th competed for a prize banner offered by Gen. Leggett to the regiment in his division which should excel in drill, and present the most cleanly appearance and soldierly bearing. It bore the legend, "Excelsior Regiment, Third Division, Seventeenth Army Corps," and the 124th received it from the hands of Gen. McPherson. In February the regiment accompanied Gen. Sherman on his famous raid to Meridian, and at Chunky Station, on the 14th, had a severe fight with the rebels. It returned to Vicksburg, and on May 4, moved with the expedition under Gen. McArthur to Yazoo city, returning the 21st, having fought on the 7th and 10th at Benton. Between July 1st and 9th it was operating on the Jackson campaign under Gen. Slocum, and was in brisk engagements at Jackson Cross Roads on the 5th and 7th. In October it went on the White river campaign, under Gen. Dennis, and was absent from Vicksburg from



the 14th to the 26th. It did provost duty until February 25, 1865, and then was ordered to New Orleans and was assigned to the third brigade, Col. Geddes; third division, Gen. E. A. Carr; sixteenth corps, Gen. A. J. Smith. It embarked, March 12th, for Mobile, and on the 29th began the siege of Spanish Fort, occupying the left of the investing line and driving the enemy within his works. On April 8 the third brigade and one other of Carr's division, stormed the fort, mounted the ramparts, secured a lodgment three hundred yards in extent, and, darkness having come on, waited for the morning light to continue their progress, but at one o'clock the rebels offered to capitulate. Away off in Virginia Lee followed suit a few hours after. The regiment marched the 13th with the expedition to Montgomery. There it remained till July 17, when it started for Chicago, where it was mustered out August 15, 1865. The 124th fought ten battles and fourteen skirmishes; it went through two sieges of forty-seven days and nights and thirteen days and nights, respectively, and traveled by land and water 7,000 miles. It was drolly called by "the boys" in the army, "The Bully One Hundred and Two Dozen."

#### ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT, COMPANY B.

Company B had thirty-four enlisted men, and one commissioned officer from Mercer county, all except one private belonging to Duncan and Perryton townships. The original officers were Henry D. Cline, captain; John B. Mitchell, first lieutenant, and James H. Coffman, of Perryton, second lieutenant. The regiment was organized at Alton by Col. Jonathan Richmond, and was mustered into service September 4, 1862. It moved November 20 to Columbus, Kentucky, and from there to Bolivar, Tennessee, reporting at the latter place to Gen. Brayman. On December 19 six companies were dispatched to Jackson, Tennessee, as a reinforcement, and afterward advanced to Humboldt, skirmishing some, being joined there by the other four companies early in 1863. On March 25 the regiment returned to Jackson, and was assigned to the second brigade, second division, Sixteenth Army Corps. It was transported by rail to Memphis, where it embarked down the river to assist in the siege of Vicksburg, and landed at Haines' Bluff June 2. It did honorable service to the end of the campaign, and on July 24 embarked for Helena, Arkansas. From thence it

moved with Gen. Steele's army against Little Rock, fighting on the way, and occupying the place on September 10. The regiment went next to Duvall's Bluff, and remained there on garrison duty, with Col. Richmond as post commandant, until August 19, 1864. On June 26 it was in action at Clarendon. It marched to Pine Bluff, going by way of Little Rock; on February 12 it moved to the mouth of White river, and June 4 returned to Pine Bluff, where it was mustered out July 12, 1865.

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#### ONE HUNDRED AND FORTIETH REGIMENT, INFANTRY, COMPANY F.

Company F of this regiment was raised in Mercer county, in May, 1864, by Van R. Harriott, of Viola, and George Boone and R. S. Osborn, of Aledo, and was mustered in June 18th, with eighty men, for 100 days. The officers were: Osborn, captain; Boone, first lieutenant, and Harriott, second lieutenant. The company rendezvoused at Rock Island, May 9th; from there it went to Dixon, and thence to camp Butler. The regiment was stationed at Lafayette, Tennessee, and also did duty at Memphis, but was never in action. Some members of company F had a fight at Lafayette, August 8th, with bushwhackers, and Edward B. Harris, of Perryton, and John W. Maury, of Aledo, were killed, and Alfred F. Noble, of New Boston, Robert Breakey and Milton M. Jones were wounded, the former mortally. The following died of disease: Jonathan Mounts, Joseph M. Sawyer, and Zachariah T. Warren. The 140th was mustered out October 29, 1864.

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#### ELEVENTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY, COMPANY C.

This regiment was raised by the famous orator and philanthropist Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, and was rendezvoused at Peoria, and mustered into service in December, 1861. In company C were fifteen or more men from Mercer county, nearly all of them from Suez township. George W. Freeman, then of Galesburg, now of Amboy, Lee county, Illinois, was captain; Charles E. Johnson, of Ionia, first lieutenant; and Moses T. Lewman, of San Jose, second lieutenant. George W. Greenwood, of Pope Creek, was first sergeant, and rose regularly to the captaincy.



Company H had in its ranks several men from Henderson county. Capt. John C. Knowlton was a Henderson county man. All the first lieutenants that the company ever had (Francis Le Clair, Henry M. Cornell, James G. Hull, and James R. Reasoner) belonged to the same county. Cornell was first sergeant, and once promoted. Reasoner was second duty sergeant, and promoted first and second lieutenant. Hull was the last of the three captains. Unhappily no memoranda of the movements of the Eleventh have been officially preserved, and time is too short for the research that would be necessary for a sketch, brief as it would have to be.

# HISTORY OF HENDERSON COUNTY.

CONTRIBUTED BY J. SIMPSON, ESQ.

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Henderson county, which once formed a part of Warren county, is situated upon the western border of the state, and is comprised of eight full townships and six fractional townships, aggregating about 400 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Mercer county, on the east by Warren county, on the south by McDonough and Hancock counties, and on the west by the Mississippi river. Numerous streams break the surface in their passage from the eastern part to their outlet, the Mississippi river. The largest of these streams is Henderson river, which rises north and east of the county, and passes in a southwesterly direction, and empties into the Mississippi about midway between Oquawka, the county seat of Henderson county, and Burlington, Iowa. Cedar creek rises in Knox county, and empties into the Henderson in township 12 N., 4 W., in the northeastern part of the county. It is a small stream, but in times of heavy rains it leaves its banks and spreads over a large space, doing great damage. Fall creek, North and South Smith creeks are small streams which empty into Henderson a little east and north of Oquawka. South Henderson rises in the eastern part of the county and enters Henderson a half of a mile north of the town of Gladstone. Farther to the south Ellison creek runs from east to west through the county, and empties into the Mississippi above the town of Carman. Still farther south in the county are Honey and Dugout creeks, running in a westerly direction. The prairies of this county comprise something less than half of its area. The soil of the prairie is excellent for agricultural purposes, consisting of a blackish loam underlaid with a brown clay. On the high lands that bound the streams the soil is lighter and less productive. These high lands were formerly covered with timber; but improvidence in its use and ravages of fire have, in a great measure, denuded these ridges, and the process of destruction still goes on. The common growth was the different varieties of oak, with some hickory, with an undergrowth of hazel interspersed with some sumac. On the lower lands, and in the bottoms we find the various species of elm, linden, ash,



maple, box-elder, cottonwood, buckeye, black walnut, butternut, honey and black locust, aspen, wild cherry, hackberry, mulberry, coffee tree, crab-apple, redbud, and many other varieties of small growth of timber. From the north end of the county to near Camp creek on the south extends a belt of bottom land of an average width of about two and one-half miles. A portion of this belt is rich black loam, very fertile and producing heavy crops. However, the overflow of the Mississippi in spring time renders business of farming these lands very uncertain. Along this belt extends between the bluff and river, for nearly the entire length of the county, elevations or sand ridges, embracing many square miles of unproductive land, although a portion of these sand lands are cultivated with success, producing remunerative crops. This sandy soil is especially adapted to the culture of sorghum or sugar cane, which is at the present time being quite extensively cultivated. And in view of the success attending the use of improved machinery in other portions of the state, there is every reason to expect that the future value of these sand lands will be greatly enhanced.

This county is favored with numerous springs of excellent water, furnishing a constant and copious supply, sufficient for the necessities of large herds of cattle. Little difficulty is found in obtaining a water supply in wells at a very moderate depth, varying from ten to fifty feet. There have been found some mineral springs of some value, but few, if any, have been subjected to a chemical analysis, so as to determine their medicinal qualities. However, it is known that copperas is the mineral most commonly held in solution by their waters. Henderson county has an abundant supply of building stone, which may be said to be inexhaustible. It is of the species called by geologists Burlington limestone, and is found in and along the bluffs, extending the entire length of the county, and to some extent along the bluffs of the creeks which find their outlet in the Mississippi. This rock is found to be light colored massive limestone, standing exposure well and the effects of the weather. There are many quarries of this stone open and worked along the bluffs of Ellison and Henderson creeks. The most extensive quarry in the county is on South Henderson, and is worked by August Wallbaum, Esq., near the town of Gladstone, on the line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. Here an extensive business is carried on in quarrying and finishing stone for buildings of all kinds. Many of the best buildings in the state are furnished with material from this quarry. The court-houses in Freeport and Macomb are built of this stone. The government buildings at Omaha are likewise built of stone from this quarry. As many as seventy-five hands

are constantly employed the greater portion of the year in carrying on this business. This county is so unfortunate as to find but a very small supply of coal within her limits. On Secs. 24 and 26, T. 9 N., 4 W., a thin seam has been found, but this supply is but a scant amount and that of an inferior quality. Many hope yet to find coal in adequate supply, but scientific examination gives small promise for the realization of their hopes, and this county may expect to depend upon more favored localities for her supply of coal. The soil of the county is well adapted to the production of corn, wheat, and other grains, and fruit of all kinds, adapted to this latitude, is produced in abundance, although along the bluff lines orchards thrive better than on prairie or bottom lands, and in the bottoms and upon the timbered portion of the sand ridges, the wild grape grows luxuriantly, yielding a grape that produces an excellent wine.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

With this brief geographical view of the territory, it is proper now to pass to the organization of the county. As stated in the beginning, this county was formerly embraced in, and formed a part of, Warren county. In the year 1841 an act was passed by the general assembly, and duly approved, creating the county of Henderson, the following being a correct copy of the act:

*An Act to Establish the County of Henderson:*—SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the general assembly: that all that part of the now county of Warren lying west of range three of the third principal meridian, be, and the same is hereby created, into a new county, to be called the county of Henderson.

SEC. 2. The county seat of said county of Henderson shall be, and is hereby permanently located at the town of Oquawka, in said county of Henderson; *provided*, the proprietors of said town of Oquawka shall donate and convey to the county commissioners of Henderson county, (for the time being) for the use and benefit of said county in fee simple not less than two hundred of the average of the unsold or unimproved lots, in said town of Oquawka, the proceeds of the sale of said town lots, or so much thereof as may be required, shall be appropriated exclusively to the erection of public buildings.

SEC. 3. In case of the removal of the county seat from said town of Oquawka, the public buildings and the lots upon which they may stand shall revert and become the property of said proprietors and their heirs forever thereafter, and also all lots remaining unsold at the the time of removal.



SEC. 4. The legal voters of the county of Henderson shall meet at the usual places of holding elections in said county, on the first Monday in April, 1841, and proceed to elect all county officers, except one commissioner and the justices of the peace and constables at present residing therein, who shall continue to discharge the duties of their offices, respectively, in and for the county of Henderson, in the same manner as though Warren county had not been divided. The officers elected under the provisions of this act shall hold their offices until the next regular election, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

SEC. 5. The county commissioners of said county of Henderson shall meet in the town of Oquawka, on the third Monday of April, 1841, and after being duly qualified, shall proceed to hold court and perform such duties as are required by law of other county commissioners' courts. Of the commissioners elected under the provisions of this act, the one receiving the highest number of votes shall hold his office for the term of three years from and after [the] first Monday in August next; the one receiving the second highest number of votes shall hold his office for the term of two years from and after that period.

SEC. 6. The county commissioners shall, whenever in their opinion the interests of the county may demand and require the sale of the whole or any part of the lots donated as aforesaid, proceed to sell the same, in such manner, and on such terms they may deem advisable for the interests of the county.

SEC. 7. The election returns for the officers herein provided to be elected, shall be made in the same manner, and within the same time as all other elections, except that the returns shall be made to John B. Patterson, an acting justice of the peace, of said county, or in case of his death or inability to act, any other justice of the peace of said county, who shall call to his assistance two other justices of the peace of said county, and proceed to open the returns of the election, and in all things perform the duties required of the county commissioners' court and justices of the peace in like cases.

SEC. 8. The county commissioners' court at their first term to be holden on the third Monday of April, 1841, shall proceed, together with the proprietors of the said town of Oquawka, to select the number of town lots herein before provided to be donated, and so soon as the selection shall be made and agreed upon, the proprietors shall immediately thereupon execute a deed in fee simple for said lots to the county commissioners for the time being, for the use and benefit of said county, which deed when so made and acknowledged and received shall be entered upon the records of said court, and also be recorded as other deeds are in the office of the county recorder.

SEC. 9. The school commissioner of Warren county shall pay over to the commissioners of Henderson county, upon demand being made by said county commissioners, or their legally constituted agent, all moneys, notes and other papers which may be in his hands at the time of such demand, and which may rightfully belong to said county of Henderson, by reason of the sale of any school lands located within the county of Henderson, and also its proportion of the interest arising from the college and seminary fund, the basis of which payment shall be made upon the late census of Warren county.

SEC. 10. All officers elected under and pursuant to the provisions of this act, shall be required to take such oath or affirmation and give such bond and security as are or may be required of like officers in other counties, and upon a failure so to do, the same penalties and forfeitures shall apply as in similar cases under the laws of this state.

SEC. 11. It shall be the duty of the county commissioners' court of Henderson county, at their first meeting on the first Monday of April next, as provided in the fifth section of this act, to proceed to levy a tax for state and county purposes, as required by the law in relation to the public revenue, in the same manner as though they had met on the first Monday of March, as now required, and shall also do and perform all other things necessary and lawful to insure the collection of the state and county revenue in said county of Henderson.

Approved January 20, 1841.

The general assembly of the state also passed an act, approved February 19, 1841, entitled, "An act to authorize the election of an additional county commissioner in Henderson county."

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the general assembly, that on the first Monday in August next, there shall be elected in the county of Henderson, one county commissioner for said county in addition to the members already provided to be elected by the act entitled "An act creating the county of Henderson, approved January 20, 1841," who shall hold his office for one year from and after said first Monday of August next, as aforesaid; and thereafter election for county commissioners shall be held, notice given, and returns made thereof in the same manner as now required by law. Approved February 19, 1841. The boundaries of the county remain as at first designated by the general assembly.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

Did time and space, and the limits of the writer of this article permit, a volume could be written of the early settlement, growth and prosperity of this county. The struggles and privations of the pioneer



are but repetitions of experiences of frontier life, which are full of incidents that, portrayed in all their minuteness, would form volumes of instructive and interesting history. The vast west, the continually receding frontier demanded then, as now, daring, self-sacrificing men and women, who were willing to make sacrifice of the pleasures derived from the society of the older and populous states, and seek in western wilds to assist in laying the foundations of new empires. It is well that it is so. How else could these almost limitless regions have ever been settled? That spirit of enterprise, that love of adventure, that reckless braving of all dangers, seems to have been an inheritance of those men and women peculiarly raised up to meet the demands of the great west, in filling her borders with a vigorous, intelligent and self-reliant people. Looking back into the past we have seen generation succeed generation in the older states, men content to live where their fathers lived, and die where their fathers died, without that restless desire for roaming that has characterized our people in later days. With the opening of new states and territories we have witnessed a new spirit infusing itself into our population. The home of childhood, the graves of ancestors, have been but feeble ties to bind the restless spirit whose vision was fixed in the direction of the setting sun, and saw spread out before him the field where wealth and honor were to be won. The world has looked on and wondered, as they have seen the mighty tide of emigration moving westward with such quiet and resistless force, breaking down all barriers, overcoming all obstacles, and organizing states as if by magic, filled with intelligent, thrifty and orderly people. Powerful Indian tribes have melted away and given place to a refined commercial people. Neighboring nations who seemed to stand in the path of our onward progress, have, after short conflict, or direct diplomacy, given ground and sought peace at the price of dismembered territory, which was added to our almost boundless empire. No wonder that the poet sang :

“ Oh, vale of Rio Bravo, let thy simple children weep,  
Close watch about their holy fires, let maids of Pecos keep.  
For lo, the pale land seeker comes with eager eyes of gain  
Wide-spreading like the Bison herd on green Salada's plain,  
Full hot and fast the Saxon rides with rein of travel slack  
And bending o'er his saddle leaves the sunrise at his back.”

The nature and character of the country demanded such a people, and they sprang forth; they had a mission to fulfill, and they addressed themselves to the task of fulfilling it. That mission was the peopling of new states, establishing societies founded on law and order, subduing

the wilds of the unknown west, and with capital and labor combined preparing this vast region of country as a home for the teeming millions of the future. Those men by their energy and bravery, gave us safety where they found danger, gave us quiet and peace where they found savage warfare. We reckon it almost in days since the time when, where we now sit surrounded by all comforts and luxuries of civilized life, the wild prairie grass waved in the wind, and the ponderous buffalo galloped over the plain unmolested by the pale hunter, and to quote an eloquent writer, "Here lived and loved another race of people. Beneath the same sun that shines on us the Indian hunter pursued the panting deer; gazing on the same moon that nightly smiles on us, the Indian lover wooed his dusky mate. Here, too, they warred, and when the tiger strife was over, here curled the smoke of peace." This has all passed away, and the pioneer has gone.

" . . . Joyful on his way  
To wed Penobscot's water to San Francisco's bay,  
To make the rugged places smooth and sow the vales with grain,  
And bear with liberty and law the bible in his train."

It is no easy task to determine with certainty who was actually the first to make a permanent settlement in this county, and if a slight error shall be found in this sketch, it will only show the liability of any one to fall into an error, while trusting to memory of others as to dates and events running back for a half of a century. The writer has sought what seemed to be the most reliable source of information. Little could be found recorded to throw light upon the questions.

In 1828 John Campbell came to this section of country and made his home on Henderson river, about two miles east of Oquawka landing, on what has been for many years known as the "Devil's Half Acre," a name given the locality by Rev. Peter Cartwright in early times on account, as he thought, of its appropriateness. Mr. Campbell improved the land now owned by Newton Wood on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, T. 11 N., 5 W., being the field that lies north of the Oquawka road and east of Mr. Wood's house. He broke the ground in 1828, and raised a crop on it in 1829. In the year 1828 James Ryerson settled in the territory embraced within this county, on Sec. 3, T. 10 N., 5 W., upon which he has ever since resided, and broke the land preparatory to a crop for the following year. In the same year, however, he raised a crop on the land then owned by S. S. Phelps on Henderson creek, about two miles southeast of Oquawka, on what is now known as the Capt. James Findley farm. Mr. Ryerson still maintains his bodily and mental faculties, although upward of eighty years of age. He is often seen on the streets of the town actively attending to his



every-day business. Throughout his long life he has ever maintained a high character as a citizen, and in all the relations of life his character stands without reproach. Prior to 1828 Jeremiah Smith erected a saw-mill near the place where now stands the flour-mill on Henderson, upon the "Half Acre." In the year 1828 Smith and a partner built an addition to the saw-mill and placed two run of stone in it for grinding grain. Shortly afterward Martin Woods settled at this mill locality and became the active miller at that place. He and his son (Newton Woods) still reside upon premises adjoining the mill. This mill property has changed hands many times, and the locality was familiarly called "Jack's Mills," on account of the name of the owner at one time being Andrew T. W. Jack, an eccentric Scotchman, who for many years carried on the milling business. The mill property is at present owned and operated by Jacob Rodmacher, who continues to do considerable business in a small way.

Large mills with all the modern improvements that science has brought to bear, together with the aid of concentrated capital, have wrought out a new order of things in the milling business, by producing a better article of flour, and at a lower price than can be afforded by small mills run upon the old style of doing business. These large mills have rendered the small ones comparatively valueless, and no longer in demand by the people. So it is in almost every other branch of business. In lumber, the large mill establishments have practically destroyed the small manufacturers, and compelled them to adopt like systems of combination of capital and labor, or see themselves undersold until they are forced to leave the market. In the business of pork packing, in early time, every town upon the Mississippi river had its packing establishments, where a flourishing business was done during the winter months, in cutting hogs and curing the meat, and when spring opened navigation the steamers took this meat and lard in barrel and bulk to St. Louis or New Orleans. Now that is all passed away, and the business now is only carried on in the large cities, where immense structures and improved processes enable them to do the work more economically than can be done in small establishments.

Among the early settlers of the territory now embraced within the present limits of Henderson county was Judge John Pence. He was born January 15, 1776, in Shenandoah county, Virginia. In early life he was a slave-holder, but upon the death of his first wife, he freed all of his slaves and removed to Champaign county, Ohio, where he again married and removed to Bartholomew county, Indiana. Shortly after he became a citizen of the latter state he was elected county judge of Bartholomew county, and held the office for a term of six years. At

this time his second wife died, and he married for his third wife a widow lady by the name of Record, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Heaton. From Indiana he removed to Illinois and settled near Joliet, where he lived for a short time, when he again moved and took up his residence in Rock Island county, in an old block house built by an Indian chief, Black Hawk. He raised one crop at this point and then removed to a point on Henderson river, about three miles northeast of Oquawka, where he made his final settlement and home. The place has ever since been known by old settlers as the "Old Pence Farm." This was in 1829 that he made his last settlement. In 1830 the county of Warren was organized, and Judge Pence was elected commissioner with Adam (Sandy) Ritchie, and John B. Talbott. Warren county was then divided into two election precincts; the eastern being what is now Warren county, and the western being composed of what is now Henderson county, then known as the Yellow Banks precinct. In the latter precinct Judge Pence and Daniel McNeil, Jr., were elected justices. In 1830 the hostilities were commenced by the Indians under the great chief, Black Hawk, and the settlers along Henderson river, near Judge Pence's place, feeling insecure and fearing the attack of savages, assembled and erected a rude but substantial fort on the farm of Judge Pence, which immediately became the refuge of settlers in that neighborhood, who gathered in to be in readiness to repel anticipated raids of the savage foe. The site of the old fort is well remembered by the old settlers of this section of country. At this fort, during those stormy times, a son was born to the judge, who was known, until he became a young man, by the name of Black Hawk. Judge Pence was one of those noble, great-hearted men, always to be found upon the frontiers, ever ready to aid those around him in need. He lived and died loved and respected by all who knew him. His daughter, Mrs. Catharine Shores, thus remembers and speaks of her father: "Often he would bring the sick and afflicted home with him and take care of them, as though they were members of his own family, free of charge. I well remember the sides of bacon, sacks of flour and potatoes, the gallons of honey, that he from time to time, distributed among his needy neighbors. Our father, by industry and economy, always managed to have a good supply of necessities of life around him, but he always felt that he held this world's goods only in trust for his suffering fellow man, as well as for himself. While he resided in Ohio and Indiana he was an ordained Baptist preacher, and sometimes, after he took up his residence in Henderson county, he occupied some unprovided pulpit and preached to his neighbors. He was a Christian, and at all times endeavored to live up to the teachings



of the bible. He was the father of sixteen children, and raised six orphans besides. He died in 1841, at his old homestead, and his wife survived him two years."

Dr. Isaac Garland came to the present site of Oquawka, then known as the Yellow Banks, and erected the first house at that place in 1827. We find in the account compiled for the history of Warren county, that the doctor, in giving an account of his building of his house, says: "There were no white men to help him, save his teamster, and in the emergency he hired six or eight Indians, who were encamped at a point of timber below. He had to pay for each log as it was rolled to its place, and then give them a drink all around. As they were unused to such labor, and particularly after they had imbibed two or three drinks of liquor, thereby becoming unsteady in their movements, they were unable to perform heavy work. Often at this stage of the labor, the logs, which were unhewn and of black-jack variety, and coming down on their bare arms and breasts, would tear off great flakes of skin. They would give an ejaculatory 'ouch,' and at once quit work for the day. Their love of the 'fire-water' was so great, however, that they would always return the following day, thereby repeating the process until the house was completed." A few other houses were built during this year (1827). In 1828-9 quite a number of settlers came and located in different parts of the county. Judge John Pence settled on Henderson creek, at what is known as the "old Pence place;" Jeremiah Smith settled on Henderson creek, about two miles east of Oquawka, near what was afterward known as the "Devil's Half Acre." James Ryason located a little lower down the creek.

Stephen S. Phelps in 1828 purchased the improved claim of Dr. Garland, at the Yellow Banks, and removed his family to their new home. Jeremiah Smith and Beatty settled nearly about the same time. At the election held in Warren county in the year 1830, Stephen S. Phelps was duly elected sheriff. At that election there were cast in the county of Warren, including the present territory of Henderson, forty-seven votes, and every voter in the county was present, save three. John Reynolds received thirty-four votes for governor, and for the same office, William Kinney received eleven votes. Mr. Phelps was a native of the state of New York. As a full biographical sketch will appear in this volume from the pen of Mrs. Phebe Button, his daughter, who is in possession of his journals and papers, it is not necessary here to speak more at length of one who performed a prominent part in the early settlement of the county.

William R. Jamison settled in Henderson county in 1829. He

was born in Grayson county, Kentucky, January 8, 1808, and removed to Perry county, Indiana, with his parents. Here he remained until he became a man. He married in Perry county. In 1829 he came to Henderson county, landing at the Yellow Banks in the summer of that year, and made a settlement on a farm about seven miles southeast of the latter place. He succeeded, as all enterprising and industrious settlers did, opening a large farm and making fine improvements of buildings, orchards and nurseries. In 1847 he removed to Oquawka and engaged in mercantile business with Alexander Moir. He closed his business in Oquawka and in 1865 removed to the state of Florida, where he engaged in the cultivation of an orange plantation, at which place he died on the 17th of June, 1882. Two of his sons still reside in Illinois, one in Minnesota, one in Nebraska, and one in Florida.

In 1838 Messrs. Robinson and Hopper built the first flour mill on the South Henderson creek, at a point where now Biggsville is located, and operated it as a toll mill to accommodate other settlers in the surrounding country. The property changed owners until it became the property of John Biggs, who, after years of experience in running a mill in a new country, disposed of his interest to Messrs. Moirs, of Oquawka, who continued to operate it until about 1860, when it passed into the hands of others.

Mr. Hopper had, prior to the year 1836, built a lumber mill at the place now known as "Hopper's Mills." Afterward it was changed to a flour mill and has continued as such to the present time. Lambert Hopper, son of the original proprietor, succeeded his father in business at "Hopper's Mill." He engaged extensively in mercantile business and carried on his business in all its varied branches with marked success. He established a woolen mill for the manufacture of woolen cloths, and by his enterprise aided in building up a thriving village. He was a man respected and trusted by all his neighbors, and his death was a great misfortune to the community in which he resided. No one succeeded him to carry on the business he had built up, and it gradually went to decay, and now there is little left to tell of the thriving business of which he was the life.

In 1836 Isaiah J. Brook came to this section of country, seeking a location for a home. He purchased the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34, in T. 10 N., R. 5 W., in the present limits of Henderson county, and the following year removed with his family to his purchase, and made it his future home. The country was new, and he improved his lands, and from time to time added to the same until he could claim the ownership of many broad acres. Industry, economy, and a peculiar aptitude for business soon placed him among the foremost business men



of the county. His family of sons and daughters grew to maturity beneath the family roof, and are now all situated in homes of their own. Only a few weeks since his two remaining single daughters wedded husbands of their choice, and Mr. Brooks, finding himself and his estimable wife again alone, disposed of his home-farm and now will seek that repose and freedom from active business cares which his merited success will enable him to enjoy.

Another of the early settlers of the county was Matthew Findley, who settled near the Yellow Banks. He was of Irish parentage and born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, January 11, 1793, where he resided with his parents until he was seventeen years old, when his family removed to Muskingum county, Ohio. In the latter place on reaching manhood he married Miss Elizabeth Blackburn, and settled down to farming.

In October, 1835, he removed to Warren county, and spent the following winter on a farm near the present site of Kirkwood. In the spring of 1836 he removed to and settled in Sec. 36, T. 11 N., R. 5 W., in then Warren county, where three of his sons and one unmarried daughter still reside. He raised a family of six children, four sons and two daughters, all of whom survive him: David M., Alexander, Matthew M., John Q., Sarah, and Eliza Jane. David, one of the brothers, resided near the old homestead, a prosperous and respected citizen, until 1875, when, on account of his health, he removed to San Luis Obispo county, California, where he now resides, engaged extensively in farming. The other three brothers still reside on or near the place upon which their father first settled, engaged in extensive and successful farming. The father died at his home, surrounded by his family and friends, April 1, 1863. He had been chosen by the votes of his fellow citizens to county offices, the duties of which he discharged with signal fidelity. He was justly entitled to the reputation he enjoyed among his fellow citizens of an honest man. His wife did not long survive him, and in her death a tragic event occurred.

It was on September 25, 1863, that Mrs. Findley, who resided with her son and daughter on the old home place, told her daughter that she was going out to pick some wild grapes that grew near the edge of a corn field not far from the house, in a skirt of timber, as she was very fond of them. Her daughter sought to dissuade her from going, as she was old and feeble, although in good health, but the old lady replied that she could go alone, as the distance was short, and she would not be absent long. She took her little tin bucket and started out at about three o'clock in the afternoon. Her daughter being

engaged in work did not fear any danger, although her mother was absent for a considerable length of time. At last, her mother not returning, the daughter grew anxious, looked out for her. She became alarmed and sought her brother and told him of the mother's absence. They, together with other members of the family, went in haste to make search for their mother. Night set in and they found her not. They searched every path and place where she might have wandered, the friends assisting, and with lanterns and torches they still continued their efforts until at last some time after darkness had set in they came upon the lifeless remains of their mother. She lay near a small tree, upon the ground where she had been picking grapes, her bucket by her side. At first it was supposed that she had fallen, perhaps with some sudden attack incident to old age, and had thus died. They took her up and mournfully proceeded to carry her to their home. She was buried in the family cemetery. The friends felt that a mystery was connected with her death. On the day following her burial it was learned that two boys from Oquawka had been in the vicinity where the body was found, on the afternoon of her death, hunting, and that they had told that one of them had fired at something in a grapevine or tree in the thicket, that he thought was a turkey, and that he saw something like a person fall. The boys were frightened and fled without looking to see what they had shot. The body was exhumed, and R. W. Richey, county judge, acting as coroner, held an inquest on the body. Upon surgical examination being made, it was found that a leaden shot had penetrated through the upper lid of the eye and entered the brain, causing death in a short time. The boys, Frank Dallam and Greely Mathews, aged respectively fourteen and ten years, admitted being in the vicinity and shooting as above described, but claimed that they had no knowledge or intention of doing anything wrong. The friends of Mrs. Findley never charged or believed that the act was an intentional one, but felt that it was the result of that reckless habit of neglect on the part of parents in permitting such mere boys to have the control of fire-arms to use at their pleasure. Many casualties, for we cannot call them accidents, have occurred in this county by allowing such reckless, not to say criminal, use of fire-arms by inexperienced boys. This should have been a sufficient lesson, teaching those who have charge and care of such boys, to lay a more careful restraint upon them in this direction. The coroner's jury, in this case, found a verdict in accordance with the facts herein stated.

John Curts came to this county prior to the year 1836, and settled on Sec. No. 35, T. 9 N., R. 6 W., about three miles east of Sho-



kokon, on the Mississippi river. At first he engaged in farming and stock raising as it was carried on in that early day. He had come from the State of Pennsylvania, and was educated in early life in those habits of industry and economy, which lay the sure foundation of competency and wealth. He had three sons and five daughters all of whom reached the age of majority. He rapidly, by his business capacity, acquired property, and, assisted by his two sons, Horatio and John Fredericks, he managed a large farm to which he gradually made additions. To make a better market for the products of his farm he shipped his pork and grain to the Wisconsin pine regions, taking in exchange pine lumber which he brought by river to Shokokon and established a lumber trade. Finding this a profitable trade his son Horatio located in Wisconsin, purchased largely of pine lands, and thus with his two sons Mr. Curts carried on a successful and profitable business. Three of his daughters married and settled in Henderson county. One married in Texas, and one in Iowa. His son Thomas lived and died in Pennsylvania. Horatio died in Shokokon. The father, John Curts, purchased a beautiful home in Burlington, Iowa, just south of the railroad bridge, and removed there to spend the evening of his days, leaving John Fredericks Curts, his son, in possession of the home place known as the "Bear Grove" farm in Henderson county. In 1874 the old gentleman met with a severe accident by falling down the basement stairs of his dwelling which resulted in his death in a few days. He died at Burlington March 12, 1874. Upon opening his will it appeared that he had left nearly all of his property, which consisted of lands in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin and Arkansas, bank stock, and other personal property to his son, John Fredericks Curts. For so doing he felt his reasons were sufficient. His son thus favored had been a true and faithful son, companion and assistant to his father, and his loyalty to his father found this return. The other legal heirs, feeling that they had been dealt unjustly with by the terms of the will, commenced in the circuit court of Des Moines, Iowa, legal proceedings to set aside the will on grounds of undue influence, and mental incapacity.

The case was tried before Judge Drayer and a jury, in the city of Burlington, in 1875, and attracted much attention in this county on account of the magnitude of the amount involved, the interest manifested by the citizens of this county, the length of time consumed, and the array of counsel participating in the trial. The trial lasted about four weeks, and on account of the engagement of attorneys in the case belonging on this circuit, the Henderson county circuit court was compelled to adjourn for one week to enable them to

complete the case. Mr. John Curts had long resided in this county, and a deep interest was felt in the determination of the contest. For the proponents of the will there appeared Hon. B. J. Hall, of Burlington, Charles M. Harris, Jonathan Simpson, James H. Stewart, and J. H. Jennings, of Illinois. For the complainants there appeared Hon. P. H. Smythe, Messrs. Tracy & Son, Thomas Hedges, and Mr. Antrobus, of Burlington, and Hon. John J. Glenn, of Illinois. After a long contest, as above stated, the case was finally submitted to a jury, who, after a deliberation of two days, were unable to agree, and were discharged by the court. Then a change of venue was applied for, and the case sent to Fairfield, Jefferson county, Iowa, for trial. Not long after, the attorneys, with the consent of all parties interested, made an amicable adjustment of the matter by dividing the property. By this decision John Fredericks Curts received two-thirds of all the estate of his deceased father, and the other heirs received the other third, to be divided among them. Thus ended a contest which gained more notoriety than any case that had been tried in any of our courts for many years. John Fredericks still lives on the old home farm, known as Bear Grove farm, happy, prosperous, and contented. On an eminence near his house he has laid out and beautified a private cemetery. In this spot repose the remains of his father, mother, and brother Horatio. On their graves he has erected three costly marble monuments, to mark the spot where rests all that remains of that father, mother, and brother, whom in life he loved so well. It is his constant care to adorn and beautify this place, and thus keep green the memories of his departed ones. May he long live to enjoy his surroundings, which he has so justly earned.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

In accordance with said act of the general assembly of the state, the first meeting of the commissioners met at Oquawka, the county seat, April 19, 1841, and organized a term of the county commissioners' court of Henderson county, by entering upon their records the following proceedings :

"STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
HENDERSON COUNTY. } Records of the County Commissioners' Court, Vol. I.

"According to the provisions of an act of the general assembly of the State of Illinois, passed at the session commencing the first Monday in December, A.D. 1840, entitled 'An Act to Establish the County of Henderson,' an election was held at the different precincts of said county on the fifth day of April, 1841, when Preston Martin and Benjamin C. Coghill were duly elected county commissioners, who,



together with James C. Hutchinson, who had previously been elected county commissioner of Warren county, and being included in the new county of Henderson was retained in office by said act, met at the town of Oquawka, the county seat of said county of Henderson, on Monday, the nineteenth day of April, 1841, agreeable to a further provision of the above-recited act, to hold a term of the county commissioners' court therein provided for, and the said Preston Martin and Benjamin C. Coghill, being duly qualified as the law directs, proceeded to business."

Alfred Knowles, who had at said election been elected clerk of the county commissioners' court, filed his bond and was duly qualified. William D. Henderson, who was elected sheriff of said county at the same time, was duly qualified as sheriff. John McKinney, recorder-elect, was likewise duly qualified as recorder of the county.

Then after transacting some routine business adjourned until the following day, when it again convened for the transaction of business. On this day an order was entered of record for a venire for the first grand jury that convened in the county. As these names are among the early settlers of the county, and are composed of a class that will ever be remembered as pioneers of sterling worth, whose examples in life are worthy of being imitated, we give the list in full: Isaac Crenshaw, James Scott, William Rhodes, Edward R. Adams, Sidney Owens, Matthew Findley, Michael Crane, Daniel Drew, Frederick Davidson, George P. Rice, Obadiah Edmunds, Joseph Watson, Isaiah J. Brook, S. S. Leet, Jonathan Perkins, James Jamison, Hugh Lee, John R. McQuown, William L. Stockton, Samuel W. Lynn, Thomas D. Wells, Ebenezer Chapin, Jesse L. Ellett. These were men of sterling qualities, well qualified by nature to perform the duties of pioneers, who would lay properly the foundations of society in a new country. The most of these men have gone, after attaining an honored old age, and left bright examples of a well-spent life to be imitated by those who have succeeded them. A few of this list still reside among us, with lives bounteously lengthened out in order that they might behold the almost magical prosperous change in the country of their adoption. At this first meeting of the commissioners of the county, Stephen S. Phelps and Alexis Phelps, the proprietors of the town of Oquawka, in compliance with the conditions of the location of the county seat at Oquawka, as set forth in the act of the general assembly, presented to the board a deed, conveying to the county 200 town lots, of average value of the lots in the town of Oquawka, for the purpose of erecting public county buildings from the proceeds of the sale of the same.

It was at this first meeting of the board, that the first saloon license was issued for Henderson county; John A. Lynn, thus, for the sum of twenty-five dollars, being authorized to vend at retail in Oquawka intoxicating liquors, without having attached the dangers that beset the dealers of to-day, by virtue of the provisions of the dram-shop act.

April 21, 1841, at the same session of the board, William R. Jamison, who had been elected treasurer of the county, filed his bond and was qualified. The board appointed William D. Henderson collector of taxes for the current year. The board also appointed Samuel McDill assessor of the county for the same time.

At a regular meeting of the board September 5, 1841, Joseph B. Jamison filed his bond as school commissioner and was duly qualified. William C. Rice who was elected county surveyor at the same time as other county officers were elected, was duly qualified. At this meeting of the board Thomas McDill, William Graham and James Jamison were appointed trustees of school lands for township No. 10 N., 5. West. Jeremiah Baker, John Hopkins and William P. Toler were appointed to like offices for township 12 N., 4 West. Thomas M. Bonham, Wilburn Walker and Joseph DeHague were appointed to like offices for township 9 N., 6 West. Peter Nichols, Obadiah Edmunds and John A. Smith were appointed to like offices for township 8 N., 5 West. Asahel Johnson, George W. Penney and George Huston were appointed to like offices for township 8 N., 4 West. Alexander Rankin, Frederick Davidson and John Pogue were appointed to like offices for township 9 N., 4 West. Abner Drew, John Bay and T. Morgan were appointed to like offices for township 10 N., 6 West. Matthew Findley, Thaddeus Eames were also appointed to like offices for township 11 N., 5 West.

At this meeting the clerk of the county court and the clerk of the circuit court were authorized to procure seals for their respective offices, the design of the seal for the county commissioners court to be an Indian in a canoe, and that for the circuit court to be the temple of liberty. At this meeting of the board the first action was taken looking to the erection of a court-house, as appears by the following order entered of record: "Ordered, that the clerk give public notice that on the 28th day of October the commissioners will contract at public sale for the delivery of 175,000 of brick and 227 perch of stone in the town of Oquawka, on lot Nos. 13 and 16 in block 58; one-half of the brick to be delivered the first of July next, the other half by the twentieth of the same month; the stone to be delivered by the middle of April next. Also twenty-two window frames and six door frames."



At this time the first ferry license was granted by the board, to keep and maintain a ferry across the Mississippi river at Burlington, Iowa, to land on the east bank of said river at any accessible point, to William H. Mauro, not however to trespass upon the established rights of others engaged in ferrying at the same point.

Called meeting of the board of commissioners August 15, 1842; the following proceedings were had: the court proceeded to open and compare the proposals received for building the court-house, according to a notice previously given, and Alexis Phelps offered to do the work proposed for the sum of \$1,219, which was the lowest offer; it is therefore ordered that Alexis Phelps have the sum of \$1,219 for laying the walls and putting on the roof of said court-house, and that he receive payment therefor eight months after the work is done, and if not then paid to receive eight per cent until paid. Said Phelps filed his bond, with James Ryason and Samuel Darnell for sureties, for the completion of the work. Ordered further that the foregoing contract is approved by the court, and filed by the clerk in his office.

James C. Hutchinson continued to hold the office of county commissioner until the September term of the commissioners' court, when he was succeeded by Francis J. C. Peasley, who held the office until September, 1842, when he was succeeded by Michael Crane, who, with commissioners Martin and Coghill, constituted the board until September, 1843, when Mr. Coghill was succeeded by Isaiah Brook. The court remained thus constituted until September, 1844, when William Cousland succeeded Preston Martin on the board. In September, 1845, Ira Miller succeeded Michael Crane. In September, 1846, Matthew Findley and Jeremiah Rose succeeded Brook and Cousland. In September, 1849, Ebenezer Chapin succeeded Matthew Findley, and Charles S. Cowan having been elected clerk succeeded Alfred Knowles. In September, 1848, Matthew Findley succeeded Ira Miller, and the board thus constituted continued until December, 1849, when the county government was organized under the new constitution.

Township organization has not been adopted in this county, but the old system of county government is still maintained, the county being divided into precincts for election purposes, and the county government composed of a board of three commissioners, manage the affairs of the county. This constituted the county government until the adoption of the constitution in 1848, when, under a provision of which, the general assembly of the state passed an act in relation to the government of counties, in force April 13, 1849, by which each county elected a county judge and two associate justices of the peace, who were directed to hold a regular term of court for the transaction of county business, on the first

Mondays of March, June, September, and December, in each year; the county judge being authorized and directed to hold a probate term of court on the third Monday of each month for the transaction of business pertaining to the estates of deceased persons, and for the purpose of attending to all cases that might arise under general probate jurisdiction. The two associate justices of the peace so elected by the voters of the county at large, were county justices of the peace, and were vested with justices' jurisdiction for the whole county. The county judge was likewise ex-officio justice of the peace for the entire county. On the third day of December, 1849, William C. Rice, county judge, Daniel Edmunds, and George W. Penny, associate justices of the peace, and Charles S. Cowan, clerk of the county court, filed their respective bonds, and were qualified for the offices to which they had been elected. The court thus constituted, organized and proceeded to the transaction of business. Robert Cronover, county treasurer, took the oath of office, and his bond was fixed at \$2,000. At this meeting of the court, Earl Frizzell, a revolutionary soldier, presented his declaration, as required by the war department, to secure a pension from the United States government, and after complying with the requirements prescribed by law, the court issued the required certificate. At the December term, 1850, of the county court, Boothe Nettleton, who had been elected sheriff, filed his bond, took the oath of office, and entered upon the discharge of his duties.

A company having been organized under an act of the general assembly, April 19, 1851, under the name of the "Burlington and Warren Plank Road Company," for the purpose of constructing a plank road across the Mississippi river bottom, from Hopper's mills, in Henderson county, to a point on the river bank opposite the city of Burlington, Iowa, the county court, at its September term, 1850, granted said company a license to run a ferry across the river from a point where their plank road touches the river on the east bank, to the city of Burlington, upon paying into the county treasury the sum of \$10. At the December term of the county court, 1852, Samuel P. MaGaw, sheriff elect of the county, filed his bond and was duly qualified.

#### CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY.

Henderson county was, on its organization, in the fifth judicial circuit, and the first term of the circuit court was held in Oquawka, May 28, 1841, in a store-room belonging to Col. Patterson, on Second street, near the present location of the brick block of Robert Moir. Hon. Stephen A. Douglas presided as judge, John S. Pollock, clerk, William D. Henderson, sheriff, and H. L. Bryant, state's attorney pro



tem. At this term Henry B. Harbinson filed his bond and qualified as the first coroner of the county. Of the character of Judge Douglas as a judge, lawyer, and statesman, it is needless here to speak. His character and achievements, both on the bench and in the national councils, have passed into history; and when passion and prejudice shall have had their day, and the impartial historian shall take up his pen, the record shall then assign the name of Stephen A. Douglas its true place in the list of statesmen and jurists of our country. Judge Douglas continued to preside in our circuit until the November term, 1843, when he was succeeded by Jesse B. Thomas, who continued to preside until the November term, 1845. Richard M. Young succeeded Judge Thomas at the June term, 1845, and then Norman H. Purple came to preside in this circuit, and continued until the June term, 1848, when he was succeeded by William Minchell, who held the same position until the September term, 1851, when Onias C. Skinner, of the county of Adams, who had been elected by virtue of an act of the general assembly of the state, passed in pursuance of a provision of the constitution adopted in 1848, dividing the state into judicial circuits, and providing for the election of judges by vote of the people, became judge of this circuit, and continued to preside with signal ability at each term of the court in this county until the year 1855. Judge Skinner won a deserved reputation as a learned and upright judge, and soon after retiring from the circuit bench he was elected to fill a place on the supreme bench from the central grand division of the state, where he fulfilled the expectations of his legal friends and maintained the high character he had so justly won. Judge Skinner died at his home in Quincy about three years ago, his death being caused by having been thrown from his carriage by a frightened team while riding through the street near his residence.

Hezekiah M. Wead, of Peoria county, next held court in this county for one year, when John S. Thompson, of Mercer county, was elected in his place, and continued to preside as judge of our circuit court until 1861, when he resigned, and Aaron Tyler, of Knox county, was appointed by the Governor to fill the unexpired term for which Judge Thompson had been elected. Judge Thompson came upon the bench with but little legal experience at the bar, but the possession of a sound legal mind, great industry and an unfaltering determination to deal justly with all questions submitted to him for adjudication, enabled him to discharge the arduous duties devolving upon him with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the legal friends with whom he associated. His decisions and rulings while on the bench bore well the scrutiny of the higher court, when taken there for review.

In 1861 Charles B. Lawrence, of Warren county, was elected judge. Of him we need only say that he brought to the discharge of his judicial duties that ripe scholarship, that well trained judicial mind, that has made for him a place in the front ranks of the legal profession in the state and also in the entire west. This circuit was favored with his able judicial administration until the year 1864, when he was elected judge of the supreme court from the northern grand division of the state. At the election of 1864 John S. Thompson was again elected judge to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of Judge Lawrence, and continued to preside until he was succeeded by Arthur A. Smith, who was elected in 1868. Judge Smith was a resident of Knox county, and had served in the army as a lieutenant-colonel of the 83d reg. Ill. Vol., and has been twice elected to fill the position of judge of the circuit in which Henderson county is embraced, and still continues to preside as one of the three judges who compose the judiciary of the circuit. This long service and repeated choice of the voters of the circuit speaks louder in behalf of his merited popularity with the people of his circuit than any eulogy that can be written in this brief review.

In 1877 the general assembly passed an act re-organizing the judicial circuits throughout the state, and Henderson county with Warren, Knox, Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island counties, became the tenth judicial circuit, entitled to elect three judges. Judge George W. Pleasants, being the judge of the circuit in which Rock Island county was embraced, and residing in that county, became one of the judges of this circuit, and at the election held in August, 1877, John J. Glenn was elected as the associate of judges Pleasants and Smith. Judge Glenn is a resident of Warren county, and brought to the discharge of his judicial duties large experience at the bar, a clear analytical mind, great industry and unquestioned integrity, which has won for him the confidence of the people of his circuit, and the warm esteem of his many friends. Although an active partisan he has never been accused of allowing his partisan predilections to sway his judicial decisions, but has sought to hold the scales of justice in equal poise for each and all men alike. Judge Pleasants, in 1877, was designated as one of the judges of the appellate court of the first district, composed of Cook county, and upon his re-election in 1879, was again designated as one of the judges of the appellate court for the second district, composed of all the counties of the northern grand division except Cook county, which position he now fills with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the members of the bar, and the public generally.

I shall not be accused, I know, of invidiousness by any who are acquainted with Judge Pleasants, when I speak of him as an ornament



to his profession, and a judge possessed of rare judicial ability. His legal attainments, his clear, discriminating mind, are all of the highest order. Always self-possessed upon the bench, patient with wearisome arguments that do not instruct, ever ready to listen to any suggestions or authority presented by counsel, he possesses that rare faculty of eliminating from a case before him, almost by intuition, all extraneous matter, and coming at once to the true issues to be determined, and when he has reached a legal conclusion in a case upon which to base a judgment, his reasons are so convincing that few suitors go from his court dissatisfied with his adjudications. It is to be regretted that his health is impaired, and all join in the hope that his physical strength may be renewed, and that he may be spared yet for many years to grace the position which he now so ably and worthily fills. In 1879 judges Smith, Pleasants and Glenn were elected for a full term, and still hold the courts of this circuit.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES.

At the formation of the county the political parties were divided into whig and democratic, as understood in the national divisions, the whig party having about 200 majority in the county. There were during the early history of parties a small number of radical anti-slavery men in the county, who could not subscribe to the doctrines held by either of the other parties on the slave question, and held aloof from their organizations. Too feeble in numbers to effect the object desired, having but little countenance or support anywhere in this state or the west, they bore the reproach everywhere heaped upon the head of a man who dared declare that slavery was wrong, and that the onward march of events and the light of civilization proclaimed its early downfall. To be an abolitionist in those days was to abdicate all hope of political advancement, and all claims upon the suffrages of voters at the polls.

The war with Mexico and the large acquisition of territory on our part as the price of peace, the agitation consequent upon the passage of the compromise measures of 1850 by congress, aroused the attention of the people of this county as well as those of other sections, and led to the formation of a third party in Henderson county, which for the first time entered the field and contested at the polls for public favor in 1852, under the name of the "free soil" party. These distinctive organizations continued until the formation of the republican party in 1856, which was composed of the bulk of the defunct whig party and the anti-slavery element combined. This new party in the presidential campaign of that year, under the candidacy of John C.

Fremont, contested with the democratic party for supremacy. Since that time the republican party's majority in the county upon all test votes has ranged from 100 to 300.

It is true that the small anti-slavery element cast a few votes by way of protest in the year 1848, and the organization denominated the "know nothing," or American party, made some show of strength at the polls in the year 1854, but all these fragments became finally consolidated with one or the other of the great parties of the day in 1856. From 1856 to the present time the republican party, when an issue has been sharply made, has usually had about 350 majority in the county.

## TOWNS.

The town of Oquawka was laid out in 1836, by Alexis Phelps and his brother, Stephen S. Phelps, who purchased a claim and improvement that had been made upon the grounds now occupied by the town. Oquawka owes its name to the Indians with whom it was a noted point in their travels and tribal convocations. The word is said to signify the lower end or termination of the Yellow Banks, the point indicated being situated at the termination of a series of high sand bluffs along the river, extending at intervals to a point above the town of New Boston, eighteen miles above Oquawka. Upon the laying out of the town it at once became a place of commercial importance, a large trade centering upon its levees. It was for many years, and until the opening of railroads revolutionized trade, the shipping point for a large country around, including Warren, Knox and a part of Mercer counties. Extensive warehouses lined the river landing in which the products of the surrounding country was in the winter stored, to await the opening of navigation in the spring, when shipments would begin for St. Louis and New Orleans, about the only two market points relied upon at early periods. Goods shipped from eastern cities for this market came generally by way of Pittsburgh and the Ohio river to Cairo, and thence up the Mississippi to our landing. Some shipments of heavy goods were made by sea to New Orleans and up the river. Upon the opening of the Illinois and Michigan canal a new route was opened by Erie canal, and lakes, thence to the Illinois river and up the Mississippi. Oquawka contained, in 1852, about 1,800 population, but has since fallen off, so that it contains not more at present than 1,000. Like many other towns and cities, she in an evil hour, and under the guidance of bad counsel, encumbered herself with burdensome debts, beyond her ability to liquidate, which resulted in the necessity of levying taxes that became burdensome upon the business of the place, and capital, alarmed at the future prospects, fled



the town to avoid taxation, while manufacturing and other enterprises sought more favored localities. The debts thus incurred were first the issue of bonds to the amount of \$10,000, to aid in the construction of the "Washington and Oquawka Plank Road," an enterprise in the state of Iowa, the projected plank road terminating at a point on the river opposite Oquawka. The corporation and the road long ago were counted among the things of the past, and remembered only as a warning to others to avoid like follies. The next enterprise in which the authorities of the town took stock, and thus added burdens to those already borne, was in May, 1857, when the issue of \$25,000 of bonds was secured to pay Messrs. Phelps and Jamison for work and labor performed on that part of the Peoria & Oquawka railroad lying between the town of Sagetown and Oquawka. The "work and labor" consisting of partially grading the line between these two points, the people being led to believe that in so doing they would secure railroad facilities by connection with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy line. But it proved a failure. The people incurred the indebtedness without any guaranty of a return for their money, and the debt is to-day outstanding and will be left as a legacy to the next generation. These debts, together with the share of the county indebtedness which the town has to pay, makes the burden a heavy one.

Of the towns in this county Oquawka is the oldest. It was laid out July 9, 1836, by the brothers, Alexis Phelps and Sumner S. Phelps. Its territory, before any additions were attached, was comprised of fractional Secs. 15 and 22, T. 11 N., R. 5, W. of the 4th P. M., as shown by the records of Warren county, Vol. II, p. 344. William C. Butler was the surveyor for the proprietors. In the deed of dedication the proprietors, in addition to liberal reservations of lots for school purposes, set apart and dedicated for use of the Methodist Episcopal, Baptist and Presbyterian churches, eligible and valuable lots for the erection of church edifices. Some years subsequently Abram D. Swarts laid out two additions to the town, upon the east side.

In order of date, the next town laid out in the county was the town of Shokokon, upon the Mississippi river, about five miles below the city of Burlington, Iowa. The original proprietor of this town was Robert McQueen, who laid it out July 16, 1836, on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 27, T. 9 N., R. 6 W., as will be seen by referring to the records of Warren county, Vol. II, p. 344. John B. Talbott was employed as surveyor. Although a fine and fertile country lay adjacent to this town, it did not prove a success. The river at this point proved to be too shallow for steamers, except at times of high water, the channel or deep water running near the Iowa shore, thus leaving this town

upon a slough, with but poor shipping facilities. It, however, became a great point for lumber, annually rafted down from the Wisconsin pineries, and finding a market in the country lying east of Shokokon. Its population never exceeded 300.

The town of Olena was laid out by Robert Kendall August 14, 1838, on Sec. 11, T. 9 N., R. 5 W., and the record of the survey by Benjamin Thomkins is recorded in Warren county, in Vol. II of records, p. 215. This town is situated near the geographical center of the county, and contains a population of about 300. It is situated in flourishing farming country, and is the center of considerable trade. It has no railroad facilities. Wolf creek, a small stream, flows westward near this place.

Warren, laid out March 25, 1840, by Lambert Hopper, on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 8, T. 9 N., R. 5 W. The plat of this town will be found recorded in Warren county, Vol. VII, of records, p. 345. Benjamin Thomkins was the surveyor. Some years later Josiah Dunn laid out an addition to this town.

At one time during the lifetime of its enterprising proprietor this town carried on quite an extensive trade. A good flouring mill and a woolen factory drew trade and business from a long distance. The land in the immediate vicinity is of a poor quality, the mills have been allowed to run down since the death of the proprietor, and its former prosperity has in a measure disappeared.

Dallas City, lies partly in Henderson and partly in Hancock county. That part in Henderson county lies in the extreme southwest of the county, Sec. 35, T. 8 N., R. 7 W. It is a flourishing town of about 500 inhabitants. The Carthage and Burlington division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad passes through this town. The town has a fine landing for steamers, which carry away large shipments of produce from the surrounding country. It is a neatly built place, upon the bluff front, facing the river. Its population are intelligent and enterprising, and carry on an extensive business in general trade and lumber. Among its enterprising citizens we may here make mention of John M. Finch, who was one of its original proprietors and who still continues to reside in his early home, active as in his boyhood days, allowing no enterprise to be undertaken for the improvement of his town without giving it his active aid and support. The town has two churches and its schools receive the active and intelligent support of its citizens and are kept up to a high standard. The town was laid out and surveyed August 11, 1849, by William H. Rollinson and John M. Finch; J. Wilson Williamson was the surveyor employed. The



record of the survey and deed will be found in Vol. IV, p. 176 of record of deeds in Henderson county.

The town of Terre Haute is situated in the prairie region of the county, on Secs. 20, 21, 28 and 29, T. 8 N., R. 5 W. It was surveyed and platted by William C. Rice, surveyor, March 27, 1854, and the plat recorded in Vol. VIII, p. 184 of records in Henderson county. It contains about 250 inhabitants and is the center of considerable trade. It has no railroad or river facilities for shipping, Lomax station, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, being its principal point of shipment. It is the center of a rich farming country and surrounded by lands of extraordinary fertility.

East Burlington lies upon the bank of the Mississippi opposite the city of Burlington, Iowa. It was laid out March 12, 1855, on Sec. 33, T. 10 N., R. 6 W., by A. D. Green, as trustee for the proprietors, Maj. A. N. Armstrong, acting as surveyor. Prior to the construction of the railroad to that point, it had a small population, but after that time, with the erection of the railroad bridge leading to the city of Burlington, the business of the place was transferred mainly to the opposite side of the river, and little remains of the former town. The railroad company have erected large stock yards upon the ground, and made other extensive improvements. Large sums of money have been expended in grading up the river front to a point above high water mark. At this point the Carthage division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad forms a junction at the east end of the bridge with the main line. The land back of, and eastward from the town, is low and cut up with sloughs, and nearly the whole is subject to overflow for miles inland during the river floods.

Biggsville is situated on Secs. 16, 17, 20, 21, T. 10 N., R. 4 W., upon South Henderson creek, and was laid out by Andrew Douglass and Samuel Douglass, October 3, 1855, William McChesney, surveyor. It now contains about 550 inhabitants. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad runs through this place. The town is surrounded by the finest quality of farm lands, which are kept in a high state of cultivation. The town contains three churches, one United Presbyterian, one Methodist Episcopal, and one Cumberland Presbyterian, all of which have a large membership of highly intelligent christian people. The schools of the town have always been its particular pride, and have been of a high order. The citizens have reason to look with pride upon their churches and schools. Near this town resides a gentleman whose business success in life deserves at least a brief mention.

David Rankin is a man still on the sunny side of three score years, who has his home about four miles south of Biggsville, upon his farm

of almost countless acres. He began life a poor farmer boy near the place where now his fine residence stands, and by industry, perseverance and an extraordinary business capacity, he gained step by step until his possessions in lands and herds seemed almost marvelous. He purchased large tracts of land along the Illinois Central railroad, in Illinois, and operated them successfully; then extending his enterprises westward he invested largely in lands in Atchison county, in the State of Missouri, which he improved and stocked with swarming herds of cattle, laid out the town of Tarkio, which has filled with an active population, and is rapidly rising in business importance. At this point he has established a national bank which has proved a complete success. In addition to these enterprises he has purchased and is operating a vast ranche in the State of Colorado, upon which his immense herds of native and Texas cattle are fattened for market. These vast enterprises, besides many smaller ones, he manages and supervises himself, showing himself a veritable Napoleon in his line of business. In all his various and extended enterprises and his large transactions, he has so conducted his business as to gain the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has been surrounded. His integrity is never called in question, and his employes find him a kind hearted and just employer.

In this town also resides Preston Martin, an aged citizen of the county, who has been identified with its history and its development from its organization. One of the earlier commissioners of the county and afterward associate justice of the county court, he filled each office with fidelity to the people and with credit to himself. A man of unswerving integrity, with a high moral standard, he justly won the esteem of his fellow citizens, and the high regard of all. This town at present writing is contending for the locating of the seat of justice within her borders. The canvassing of the vote of the county for the election to be held in November goes on with great earnestness. The advocates of removal to Biggsville claiming that their town is nearer the geographical center of the county, and therefore it is for the interest of the county to secure the county buildings at this point.

Gladstone (formerly Sagetown), was laid out by Gideon Sage, May 16, 1856, in Secs. 15 and 16, T. 10 N., R. 5 W., James R. White surveyor. The town is situated on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. The Galva branch of the same road terminates at this point from the north. The town contains about 400 inhabitants. At this point is located the Excelsior sugar refinery, a large and costly establishment, owned principally by Amos T. Hall, of Chicago. It seems not to have been a success so far, although the works and machinery



are of the most elaborate kind. Some glucose has been manufactured, but now the owners of the premises are preparing the works for working sorghum cane, of which the surrounding country produces largely.

Gideon Sage, the original proprietor of this town, although far advanced in years, still resides here, hale and hearty, and bids fair to yet renew his lease of life and outstrip in the race many a younger competitor. The town has one Catholic, one Presbyterian, and one Methodist church, and is well provided with school-buildings.

Raritan, a town in the southeastern part of the county, was laid out by Isaac V. Kelley and James Hixton April 16, 1856, in Secs. 10, 11, 14 and 15, T. 8 N., R. 4 W., James R. White acting as surveyor for the proprietors. The record of its plat and survey may be found recorded in Vol. XII of deeds, p. 255, Henderson county. It is a beautiful and thriving village. Situated in the midst of an undulating, fertile prairie, surrounded by finely improved farms in a high state of cultivation, upon which means have been lavishly expended in the erection of fine buildings, this place presents an attractive appearance. The houses of the town are of a neat and commodious structure, and so neatly kept in all their surroundings that they tell at once the character of its inhabitants.

Although possessing no near railroad or river facilities for shipping, they yet carry on a large trade in merchandise and stock and agricultural products. Roseville and Laharpe stations are their nearest railroad points. One will hardly find in days of travel anywhere a town surrounded by so many natural advantages, and which exhibits such thrift, unaided by artificial means.

Among the enterprising business men of this place I may mention William Tharp and Robert Barnes, but space prevents the naming of others equally enterprising and deserving of mention. Mr. Tharp has an extensive store, filled with a general stock of merchandise, which he purchases in Chicago and eastern cities. Making his own selections and purchasing from first hands when possible, he has been enabled to offer his numerous customers their supplies at such rates as to leave no inducement on their part to go to larger places to make their purchases. By energy and business tact, by fair dealing and unquestioned integrity, he established a business of great magnitude, and won for himself an enviable reputation. He is still a young man, with the ability to grow and advance with the enterprising and thrifty people by whom he is surrounded.

Robert Barnes began business here a few years ago. From small transactions at first his business has increased until at the present his sales are very large. His stock embraces almost every article of

necessity or luxury required by the customers with whom he deals. Besides a general stock of merchandise, a line of agricultural machinery suited to all the wants of the country is carried in large stock. In addition to his mercantile business he is the proprietor, publisher and editor of the "Raritan Bulletin," a weekly newspaper of fair size, which is ably edited and constantly gaining in circulation. It is independent in all things, and deserves the success that has thus far attended it.

The town contains four churches: Dutch Reformed, Baptist, Methodist, and Roman Catholic. It has two hotels.

The town of Lynn, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, adjoining Gladstone, was laid out by Ezekiel W. Lynn on Sec. 10, T. 10 N., 5 W., June 28, 1858. It was surveyed by James R. White. The plat and record will be found in Vol. XV, p. 213, of deeds, in Henderson county.

The town of Carman was laid out and platted by Joseph Carman, September 3, 1870, in Sec. 27, T. 9 N., 6 W., and recorded in Vol. XXIV, of deeds, p. 344, Henderson county. It is situated on the line of Carthage Division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, about one mile from the Mississippi river, and contains a population of about 300. Shokokon lies between this town and the river. Carman is a flourishing town, and the center of a large grain trade. Large quantities of corn are annually stored at this point for distribution to the different markets. It is five miles by railroad to Burlington, Iowa, and about fifteen miles to the county seat. About two miles east of this place resides John Fredericks Curts, on his place known as the "Bear Grove" farm, of which further mention will be made in this sketch. Near this place many of the earlier settlers of the county found a home. Alfred Knowles and Dr. Freeman Knowles came from the State of Maine soon after the laying out of the town of Shokokon, in 1836. They remained for a short time upon lands they had entered. The fever and ague, the pest of our bottom lands at that time, was more than they could successfully contend with, and they removed to more healthy locations, Dr. Knowles going to the town of Keokuk, Iowa, which then contained but a few hundred inhabitants, where his practice grew with the growth of that thriving city. He became one of the professors in the medical college of that place. He died in 1880, after a successful professional career. His brother, Alfred, removed to Oquawka, where, upon the organization of the county, he became county clerk. In 1855 he removed to the city of Galesburg, this state, where he still resides.

The last town laid out in the county is Lomax, on the Chicago, Bur-



lington & Quincy railroad. It was laid out by Robert Lomax, May 11, 1882, in Sec. 15, T. 8 N., R. 6 W., J. Wilson Williams acting as surveyor; plat and deed recorded in Vol. I, of plats, p. 64, Henderson county. At this point there has been a railroad station and business point for many years. Prior to the opening of the railroad, William Lomax, the father of the present proprietor, owned and cultivated a large farm, through which the road was located and a station established at the point where the town is now laid out. The senior Lomax erected a dwelling and store, and also other buildings at the station, so that in fact it became quite a town years before any town was marked out in a regular way. The proprietor had resided on the place for many years; in fact he was among the early settlers of the county, and owned this valuable property before railroads came to further enhance its value.

Although the population of the town is small, it has become an important shipping point. Large shipments of cattle, hogs and grain are made at this station, and there is no reason why this should not, in the near future, with such an enterprising business man as its present proprietor, become a flourishing town. The elder Lomax died in the year 1879, at an advanced age, loved and respected by all who knew him. He had lived to see the frontier upon which he had settled become a cultivated, populous community. He had, as a citizen, lent his aid to advance every laudible undertaking for the advancement of the interest of the county. He had served four years as associate justice in our county court, and well and faithfully did he discharge the duties of his office. With hands clear of official corruption, with consciousness of having performed his duty, he retired from office and his remaining years were made pleasant with the kindest regards of his fellow citizens. His worthy son Robert succeeds him in the estate and business established by his father. The position has fallen to able hands. The father's wishes and plans will now be carried out by the son. Possessing youth, vigor and fine business capacity, he still retains that same modesty of character and moral conviction that endeared his father to the people among whom he lived. Mr. Lomax is at present, as will be seen elsewhere in this sketch, one of the commissioners of the county. Just north of this place the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad forms a junction with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, and over the track of the latter runs on to the city of Burlington.

## NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper published in the county was the "Oquawka Spectator," founded by Col. John B. Patterson, in the month of February, 1848, at Oquawka, who issued the first number in February of that year. It was neutral in politics, and issued weekly continuously to the present time. Its founder, Col. Patterson, is still its editor and proprietor, and bids fair to continue its management for many years to come. Since the foundation of the paper, E. H. N. Patterson, a son of the present editor, was for many years associated with his father as junior editor. The latter severed his connection with the paper in the year 1859, and with the great army of gold seekers who set their faces westward, left his native state and took up his abode in the then territory of Colorado. Mining was not to his taste. He was possessed of a fine intellect and was a brilliant writer. These qualities could not long be concealed and he was induced to attach himself to the editorial staff of the "Colorado Miner," one of the leading papers of the state, in which position he gained high rank by the ability he displayed in his editorials. He, in a short time, became one of the proprietors of the paper and its chief editor, in which position he died in the month of April, 1880, at Denver, Colorado. He married, in 1851, Laura Phelps, the daughter of Stephen S. Phelps, one of the founders of the town of Oquawka. His wife died in the year 1867, leaving three children: Harry N., Mattie, and Norman.

Not only as a newspaper writer did the subject of this sketch exhibit marked ability, but many of his publications in verse, as well as in prose, bore testimony of the peculiarly fine literary cast of his mind. A specimen is here quoted as illustrating the style of his writings, and the sentiments of its author. It was written nineteen years ago, and is now published for the first time. The original is in the possession of the writer:

## "THE PATRIOT MOTHER.

"Dead! No, no! surely you do but mock me! He's but sleeping;—  
 Why all these tears, this agony of mourning? Why such weeping?  
 Death has not come to rob me of the lad. 'Tis only gentle sleep—  
 Deadlike perchance, in being dreamless; yet only slumber, wherefore weep?  
 When first the tocsin rung the battle blast, Charlie, brave boy, stepped out,  
 Full panoplied, in triple armor clad; his voice in the great freedom-shout  
 Rising above all others—louder, clearer, filled with grandeur of the Cause  
 For which he fought: his nation's constitution, the supremacy of its laws!  
 'Twas but as yesterday I saw him girding his loins for the fight,  
 Conscious of victory, confident of success, because the Right.  
 Ne'er fell before the opposing hosts of Treason's clan—  
 Ne'er failed because opposed by jaundiced Error's ban!



Then say not he is dead ! He lives — his faith, example, deeds,  
Will nerve his patriot-brothers' arms ! Away with funeral weeds ;  
I will not wear them ! Charlie lives — his spirit is away.  
In hottest battle — men will feel its power ; death cannot mark him for its prey  
'Till war shall cease in all the land — 'till peace resume her sway —  
And Treason's cloud obscure no more the brightness of the Nation's day."

It should be stated that the "Spectator," which commenced its career as a neutral, was, in the year 1863, transformed into a democratic organ of its party in the county, and to this time has been an advocate of conservative democratic principles, through the long pilgrimage of defeat to which its party has been subjected. Its venerable editor stands high with his professional brethren and earns the esteem of his political opponents. Few men have wielded the editorial pen for so many consecutive years, as editor and proprietor of one newspaper. All his acquaintances join in wishing him many happy years of success in the path he has so long and successfully traveled.

The "Oquawka Plaindealer" was the next newspaper enterprise started in the county. This was a weekly publication, commenced July 24, 1852, by Francis A. Dallam, editor and proprietor, and so continued until March 6, 1855, when Horace Bigelow, Esq., purchased a half interest in the establishment ; from that time until May 6, 1856, when Mr. Dallam sold his interest to James H. Reed. The firm of Reed & Bigelow continued the publication of the paper until May 1, 1857, when they sold the whole concern to J. K. Magie and David Mitchell. It was whig in politics at its commencement and after the defeat of Scott, in 1852, it shared the fate of its party, and drifting with the wreck until the formation of the republican party in 1856, when it cast its fortunes with that organization, to which it ever afterward adhered. Magie & Mitchell disposed of their interest and the paper was next under the control of Lewis Leslie ; then of M. H. Jamison, when, under the editorial control of a Mr. Chamberlain, it was removed to Biggsville, in this county. Shortly after Chamberlain retired from the paper and Judson Graves became its editor. Subsequently Graves removed the paper to Kirkwood, in Warren county, when, after a brief period, he again moved, and this time to the city of Galesburg, in this state.

The "Clipper" is a small weekly paper, established in Biggsville by M. M. Rowley, editor and proprietor, about the year 1874. It is republican in politics, and still continues under its first management, and is meeting, as it deserves, with very fair success. Its editor is an excellent writer for such a paper and earns the deserved success he has enjoyed.

The "Raritan Bulletin," a weekly paper, is published in the town of Raritan, in the southeast part of the county, by Robert Barnes, as editor and proprietor. It was established in the year 1875. It is independent in politics and is meeting with deserved success. Its editorials evince marked ability and its circulation is rapidly increasing.

"The Henderson County Journal" was established in Oquawka by Eugene A. Hail, editor and proprietor, in the month of May, 1872. It was a weekly paper and republican in politics. In June, 1872, Mr. Hail, its editor, removed the establishment to Macomb, in McDonough county, in this state, where he continued its publication until August, 1878, when he returned with his paper to this county and again commenced its publication at the county seat, under the name of the "Henderson County Journal," a weekly issue, devoted to the interests of the republican party. The paper is ably edited by Mr. Hail, its proprietor, a gentleman of refinement and sterling worth, and is proving for its owner a good investment.

All the papers here named have received not alone from their party friends, but from the general public of the county, a generous support, which bears evidence of the intelligence of the inhabitants.

## COUNTY OFFICERS.

The names of the county officers from the date of the organization of the county is shown in the following table, with the date of their election or appointment:

NAME.	OFFICE.	DATE.
John S. Pollock.....	Clerk Circuit Court.....	April 5, 1841.
Alfred Knowles.....	Clerk County Commissioners' Court.....	April 5, 1841.
John McKinney.....	Recorder .....	April 17, 1841.
William C. Rice.....	Surveyor .....	April 17, 1841.
William Cowden.....	Probate Justice of the Peace.....	April 22, 1841.
William Elliott.....	State's Attorney.....	May 20, 1841.
Alfred Knowles.....	Probate Justice of the Peace.....	June 30, 1841.
Joseph B. Jamison.....	School Commissioner .....	Aug. 2, 1841.
W. D. Henderson.....	Sheriff.....	April 5, 1841.
Francis J. C. Peasley....	County Commissioner .....	Aug. 2, 1841.
Joseph B. Jamison.....	School Commissioner.....	Aug. 2, 1841.
Preston Martin.....	County Commissioner.....	April 5, 1841.
Benjamin C. Coghill.....	County Commsisioner.....	April 5, 1841.
William D. Henderson..	Sheriff.....	Aug. 1, 1842.
Michael Crane.....	County Commissioner .....	Aug. 1, 1842.
John F. Morgan.....	Coroner.....	Aug. 1, 1842.
Isaiah J. Brooks.....	County Commissioner.....	Aug. 7, 1843.
Alfred Knowles.....	County Commissioner's Clerk.....	Aug. 7, 1843.
Wilson M. Graham.....	Recorder.....	Aug. 7, 1843.
William C. Rice.....	Probate Justice of the Peace.....	Aug. 7, 1843.



NAME.	OFFICE.	DATE.
William E. Hopkins.....	Surveyor.....	Aug. 7, 1843.
Alexander Marshall.....	School Commissioner.....	Aug. 7, 1843.
William Cousland.....	County Commissioner.....	Sept. 12, 1844.
S. S. Leet.....	Sheriff.....	
D. B. Rice.....	Coronor.....	Feb. 5, 1845.
J. B. Jamison.....	School Commissioner.....	
Jer. Rose.....	County Commissioner.....	Aug. 1846.
Matthew Findley.....	County Commissioner.....	Aug. 1846.
Julius Gifford.....	Sheriff.....	Aug. 1846.
David B. Rice.....	Coroner.....	Aug. 1846.
Ebenezer Chapin.....	County Commissioner.....	Aug. 1847.
Charles S. Cowan.....	County Commissioners' Clerk.....	Aug. 1847.
Harvey Russell.....	Probate Justice of the Peace.....	Aug. 1847.
Samuel Mitchell.....	Recorder.....	Aug. 1847.
John S. Peasley.....	Treasurer.....	Aug. 1847.
Joseph B. Jamison.....	School Commissioner.....	Aug. 1847.
A. N. Armstrong.....	Surveyor.....	Aug. 1847.
Robert S. Blackwell.....	States Attorney.....	Nov. 1847.
Matthew Findley.....	County Commissioner.....	Aug. 1848.
William C. Rice.....	County Judge.....	Nov. 6, 1849.
Daniel Edmunds.....	County Justice of the Peace.....	Nov. 6, 1849.
George W. Penny.....	County Justice of the Peace.....	Nov. 6, 1849.
Charles S. Cowan.....	County Clerk.....	Nov. 6, 1849.
Robert Crownover.....	County Treasurer.....	Nov. 6, 1849.
A. N. Armstrong.....	Surveyor.....	Nov. 6, 1849.
William McMillan.....	School Commissioner.....	Nov. 6, 1849.
Booth Nettleton.....	Coroner.....	Nov. 6, 1849.
Booth Nettleton.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 5, 1850.
James A. Maury.....	Coroner.....	Nov. 5, 1850.
John S. Pollock.....	Clerk of the Circuit Court.....	Nov. 2, 1852.
James H. Stewart.....	State's Attorney.....	Nov. 2, 1852.
Samuel P. McGaw.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 2, 1852.
James A. Maury.....	Coroner.....	Nov. 2, 1852.
Peter Downey.....	County Judge.....	Nov. 8, 1853.
Lambert Hopper.....	Associate Justice.....	Nov. 8, 1853.
John Logan.....	Associate Justice.....	Nov. 8, 1853.
Charles S. Cowan.....	County Clerk.....	Nov. 8, 1853.
George W. Connelly.....	Treasurer.....	Nov. 8, 1853.
A. N. Armstrong.....	Surveyor.....	Nov. 8, 1853.
Wm. L. Stockton.....	School Commissioner.....	Nov. 8, 1853.
Richard W. Richey.....	County Judge.....	Feb. 18, 1854.
Jonathan Simpson.....	School Commissioner.....	Nov. 1855.
Richard W. Richey.....	County Judge.....	Nov. 3, 1857.
Asahel Johnson.....	Associate Justice.....	Nov. 3, 1857.
Melzer C. Paul.....	Associate Justice.....	Nov. 3, 1857.
Charles S. Cowan.....	County Clerk.....	Nov. 3, 1857.
George W. Connelly.....	County Treasurer.....	Nov. 3, 1857.
Garrett Nevins.....	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 3, 1857.
Jonathan Simpson.....	School Commissioner.....	Nov. 3, 1857.
George W. Cowden.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 2, 1858.

NAME.	OFFICE.	DATE.
Wm. B. Jamison.....	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 2, 1858.
Charles E. Birdsall.....	Coroner .....	Nov. 2, 1858.
J. Eldridge Barnes.....	School Commissioner.....	Nov. 8, 1859.
Geo. W. Connelly.....	Assessor and Treasurer.....	Nov. 8, 1859.
Wm. B. Jamison.....	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 8, 1859.
James H. Stewart.....	State's Attorney .....	1860.
John M. Wilson.....	Sheriff.....	1860.
Hugh L. Thomson.....	Clerk Circuit Court.....	1860.
Z. D. Fanning.....	Coroner .....	1860.
Richard W. Richey.....	County Judge.....	Nov. 5, 1861.
Preston Martin .....	Associate Judge.....	Nov. 5, 1861.
Wm. Hartford.....	Associate Judge.....	Nov. 5, 1861.
Wm. Hopkins .....	County Clerk .....	Nov. 5, 1861.
J. Eldridge Barnes.....	School Commissioner.....	Nov. 5, 1861.
Moses McElhinney .....	Assessor and Treasurer.....	Nov. 5, 1861.
Wm. H. McChesney.....	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 5, 1861.
R. S. McAllister.....	County Clerk .....	(appointed)..... Aug. 15, 1863.
R. S. McAllister.....	County Clerk.....	(elected)..... Nov. 3, 1863.
Francis A. Raper.....	Assessor and Treasurer.....	Nov. 3, 1863.
J. E. Barnes.....	School Commissioner.....	Nov. 3, 1863.
Isaac N. J. Hartford....	Surveyor .....	Nov. 3, 1863.
Hugh L. Thomson.....	Clerk Circuit Court.....	Nov. 8, 1864.
James A. McKenzie.....	State's Attorney .....	Nov. 8, 1864.
Davis S. Brainard.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 8, 1864.
Samuel H. Ruple.....	Coroner .....	Nov. 8, 1864.
Wm. Ingerun.....	School Commissioner.....	Dec. 8, 1864.
Cornelius D. Eltinge....	County Judge.....	Nov. 7, 1865.
Wm. Lomax.....	Associate Justice.....	Nov. 7, 1865.
Wm. H. Mills.....	Associate Justice.....	Nov. 7, 1865.
Robert S. McAllister ....	County Clerk.....	Nov. 7, 1865.
Simeon Donaldson.....	County Treasurer.....	Nov. 7, 1865.
Isaac N. J. Hartford....	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 7, 1865.
Marion F. Button .....	County Superintendent of Schools.....	Nov. 7, 1865.
Simeon Donaldson.....	County Assessor .....	Nov. 7, 1865.
Wm. Bungler.....	Sheriff and Collector.....	Nov. 6, 1866.
Hinton Park.....	Coroner .....	Nov. 6, 1866.
Matthew H. Jamison....	County Superintendent of Schools.....	Sept. 14, 1867.
Simeon Donaldson.....	County Treasurer .....	Nov. 5, 1867.
Simeon Donaldson.....	County Assessor .....	Nov. 5, 1867.
Isaac N. J. Hartford....	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 5, 1867.
John A. Summers.....	Superintendent of Schools.....	Mar. 6, 1868.
Joseph Braden.....	Sheriff and Collector.....	Nov. 3, 1868.
Harry F. McAllister.....	Clerk Circuit Court.....	Nov. 1868.
James A. McKenzie.....	State's Attorney .....	Nov. 1868.
Joseph Brader.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 1868.
Jonathan Simpson.....	School Superintendent.....	Aug. 1869.
Richard W. Richey.....	County Judge.....	Nov. 2, 1869.
Preston Martin .....	County Justice of the Peace.....	Nov. 2, 1869.
Robert W. Goddis.....	County Justice of the Peace.....	Nov. 2, 1869.
Roswell P. Randall.....	County Superintendent of Schools.....	Nov. 2, 1869.



NAME.	OFFICE.	DATE.
D. C. Hanna.....	County Clerk .....	Nov. 2, 1869.
Wm. B. Jamison.....	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 2, 1869.
George Bell.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 8, 1870.
Daniel I. McMillan.....	Coroner.....	Nov. 8, 1870.
Jefferson H. Jenings....	State's Attorney.....	Nov. 1872.
H. F. McAllister.....	Clerk of Circuit Court.....	Nov. 1872.
George Bell.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 1872.
W. K. Smith.....	Coroner .....	Nov. 1872.
William C. Rice.....	County Judge.....	Nov. 4, 1873.
D. Caswell Hanna.....	County Clerk.....	Nov. 4, 1873.
John A. Brook.....	County Treasurer.....	Nov. 4, 1873.
James McArthur.....	Superintendent of Schools.....	Nov. 4, 1873.
Joseph Allen.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 4, 1873.
Robert A. McKinley....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 4, 1873.
John B. Holliday.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 4, 1873.
George Bell.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 3, 1874.
Francis M. Jackson.....	Coroner .....	Nov. 3, 1874.
Isaiah J. Brook .....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 3, 1874.
W. A. M. Crouch.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 3, 1874.
Joseph Allen.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 2, 1875.
Eli W. Smith.....	County Treasurer.....	Nov. 2, 1875.
William H. McChesney..	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 2, 1875.
George Curry.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 7, 1876.
H. F. McAllister.....	Clerk of Circuit Court.....	Nov. 7, 1876.
James O. Anderson.,...	Sheriff.....	Nov. 7, 1876.
Jefferson H. Jenings....	State's Attorney .....	Nov. 7, 1876.
Millard F. Brown.....	Coroner.....	Nov. 7, 1876.
William C. Rice.....	County Judge.....	Nov. 6, 1877.
G. F. Wm. Froehlich....	County Clerk .....	Nov. 6, 1877.
Eli W. Smith .....	County Treasurer.....	Nov. 6, 1877.
J. M. Akin.....	Superintendent of Schools.....	Nov. 6, 1877.
James Duke.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 6, 1877.
Elijah Beal.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 5, 1878.
James O. Anderson.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 5, 1878.
Isaac P. Cowdon.....	Coroner.....	Nov. 5, 1878.
George Curry.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 4, 1879.
Adam B. Hamill .....	County Treasurer .....	Nov. 4, 1879.
Pitt K. Jagger.....	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 4, 1879.
Harry F. McAllister....	Clerk of Circuit Court.....	Nov. 2, 1880.
James O. Anderson.....	Sheriff.....	Nov. 2, 1880.
Rauseldon Cooper.....	State's Attorney .....	Nov. 2, 1880.
James A. Caswell.....	Coroner.....	Nov. 2, 1880.
Samuel Pickering.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 2, 1880.
Robert A. Lomax.....	County Commissioner.....	Nov. 8, 1881.
Appleton Park.....	County Surveyor.....	Nov. 8, 1881.
James M. Akin.....	Superintendent of Schools.....	Dec. 5, 1881.

Among the old citizens of this county there is one who should not be overlooked in these brief biographies. It is the colored man commonly called "Nigger Dick," Richard being his true name, and, like

many others who were the offspring of the slave system, he had but that one name, for family he had none. The existence of slavery forbid the cultivation and perpetuation of family ties. The absence of all those sanctified relations included in the family circle was essential to the perpetuation of what was termed, in the days of its power, the "institution of slavery." Richard was born a slave in Greenville, Kentucky, in 1815, as the property and chattel of Solomon Rhodes. At the age of twelve years he was sold to John Billings. Mr. Billings took him to the State of Missouri and sold him to Capt. William Phelps for the sum of \$1,000, which, Dick remarked to the writer, was more than the average white man would sell for in Missouri at that time. Capt. Phelps, who is a brother of the late S. S. Phelps, and engaged at that time with him in the Indian trade, brought Dick to Oquawka with him. Afterward Dick became a valuable assistant with the Phelps brothers in their Indian trade in Iowa and on the frontier. He at one time saved the family of S. S. Phelps, at their trading station in Iowa, from death in their burning home. In doing so he risked his life, and was seriously injured by the explosion of gunpowder in the burning building. Ever afterward he was treated with the greatest kindness by the Phelps brothers. He was always welcome in the families of the Phelps brothers. In their trading expeditions in the west among the Indians, Dick was always their valued aid and faithful companion. For many years Dick enjoyed the fruits of his fidelity. He may be said to have been put on the retired list, with pay and rations. Many are the good stories that are related at Dick's expense, growing out of journeyings among the red men. Many a thrilling scene is related of his dealings with these natives; whether in the deadly encounter, where personal bravery was a large factor in self-preservation, or in the swift race for life, where fleetness and endurance were essential to success, Dick never found his superior. He possesses rare natural abilities. Although the child of slavery, he has gathered a rare stock of practical every-day education, and furnishes us evidence of the truth that his race is capable of receiving that training that shall fit them for those duties devolving upon men who would perpetuate that system of government where all "just powers are derived from the consent of the governed." Dick still lives among us, and, although well advanced in years, happy and cheerful. With his horse and his gun, he is the same good-natured, jolly, honest Dick that he was when first his foot trod the free soil of Illinois. He was never freed in any formal manner, and he says that he does not know but what he would still be in law a slave, if had not been for the proclamation of President Lincoln freeing the slave.



## RAILROADS.

The first railroad enterprise in which the citizens of Henderson county engaged, looking to the building of a road in the county, was the Peoria & Oquawka, a project to build and equip a road from Peoria, on the Illinois river, to Oquawka. On February 12, 1849, the general assembly of this state passed an act incorporating the company, when, on December 20, 1849, the first meeting was held to organize. Alexander Turnbull, James W. Davidson, Wyatt B. Stapp, Preston Martin, John McKinney, Robert M. Patterson, Samuel B. Anderson, James Knox, Daniel Meek, William Moss, Alfred G. Curtinius, and Isaac Underhill, the commissioners, opened the books for subscriptions to the capital stock. The shares were fixed at \$100 each, and five per cent payable at the time of subscription. At that time the managers of the enterprise estimated the cost of the road, including rolling stock, at from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per mile.

The county commissioners ordered an election for the first Monday in May, 1851, of the legal voters of the county, to vote upon the proposition for the county to subscribe \$50,000 to the capital stock of said company. The election was held and resulted in the proposition for such subscription being voted down by a large majority.

By an act of the general assembly the charter of this railroad company was amended, and by one provision of the amendment it was provided that a branch road, extending from Sagetown (now Gladstone) might be constructed to a point on the Mississippi river opposite the city of Burlington, Iowa. The town of Oquawka, under a mistaken idea of the importance of the completion of the road to that point, gave to the enterprise no encouragement, and Burlington, seeing her opportunity, at once set about raising the means to secure the completion of the work to her over the branch. In this she succeeded, and Burlington became what Oquawka might have been, a great commercial point and a railroad center for a large portion of the roads through Iowa.

The Peoria & Oquawka railroad was completed to Monmouth in 1855, on the first of January. The Chicago & Quincy railroad was completed to Galesburg at that time, and that company leased the Peoria & Oquawka line and completed the work to Burlington, and commenced running their trains over the whole route, and in a short time afterward purchased the entire line, when the name was changed to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, and as soon as the Quincy branch was completed to Galesburg, 110 miles, this name became universally known as one of the most popular railroads in the United States. That portion of the road from Sagetown to Oquawka the company never completed. The town of Oquawka graded, tied,

and bridged the five miles of road between the two last named points, in 1856, under some kind of an expectation that the road would be operated by the company, but after the expenditure of \$25,000 these expectations proved to be without basis, and the work remained useless and of no value to the town.

In 1849 the general assembly granted a charter for the Warsaw & Rockford Railroad Company, for the purpose of constructing a road from the town of Rockford, Winnebago county, Illinois, to the city of Warsaw, Hancock county, Illinois, near the foot of the Des Moines Rapids. The route of this proposed road passed from north to south through Henderson county.

In 1853, at an election, the county commissioners were authorized to subscribe \$100,000 to the capital stock of said company, to aid in the completion of the enterprise. In November, 1855, the commissioners, in accordance with the authority thus given, proceeded to make the subscription. The road was never completed, nor indeed was much, if any, valuable work done on the line, but the affairs of the company fell into incompetent hands, and the subscriptions were frittered away, leaving no results of value to those who had, in an evil hour, placed their means at the disposal of these managers.

Henderson county, however, succeeded after some years in recovering back \$21,000 of unexpended bonds, and thus saved this much from the wreck of this wretched, bankrupt concern. The county subsequently refunded the remaining portion of the indebtedness, and at this time has paid a greater part of the same, and will in the early future be entirely free from this debt.

The Carthage & Burlington Railroad Company was chartered in 1867 by the general assembly, and authorized to construct a road from Burlington, Iowa, to Carthage, Hancock county, Illinois, a distance of about twenty-six miles. In about 1870 the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company purchased this road, and added it to its already lengthening lines, and commenced operating it under the title of the Carthage & Burlington division of that road.

The Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis railroad was commenced by a company organized under the laws of this state in 1865, with intent to build a road from Rockford through the counties of Rock Island, Mercer, Henderson, and so on to St. Louis, touching Keithsburg and Oquawka as river points. That part of the road between Keithsburg via Oquawka to Sagetown was completed and put in operation in 1869, when the company changed its route, running south from Rock Island through the eastern portion of Mercer county to Monmouth, Warren county, and thence to St. Louis. Subsequently,



the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Company purchased the entire line of road from the Rockford & St. Louis Company, and now operate the whole line. The short piece of road from Sagetown to Keithsburg was extended six miles farther north to New Boston, where it connects with the Galva branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road.

That part of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad within the limits of this county crosses the county line on leaving Hancock county, extending in a northwesterly direction, and forms a junction with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road at Iowa station, between the towns of Lomax and Carman. Thus it will be seen that Henderson county has in operation about fifty miles of railroad, viz: the east and west main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, extending from the Warren county line to the Mississippi river, seventeen miles; the Burlington & Carthage branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road, extending from Burlington to Dallas City in this county, fifteen miles; the Galva branch of the last-named road, extending from the south line of Mercer county by way of Oquawka to Gladstone, where it forms a junction with the main line, fourteen miles; the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad from Iowa Junction to the south line of the county, a distance of four miles.

There are other lines of projected railroads, the routes of which touch the territory of Henderson county, none of which, at the present time, give promise of an early completion. The Peoria, Farmington & Keithsburg road, running by way of Monmouth, touches the northeastern part of the county. This road is completed and running cars from Peoria to Farmington. Much grading has been done in Mercer county, from Keithsburg, eastward, and along the line much money has been expended, but work has ceased on the west portion of the line, and there seems at present no indication of an early completion of the road. Two other lines of railroad are projected, running through the county from east to west, pointing to the Burlington bridge, but whether these paper enterprises are merely speculative or not, there is no visible indications of active work upon them at the present time. These enterprises probably are only speculative.\*

#### SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS. NAMES OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES.

In 1844, for the first time, Henderson county appears in districting the states into senatorial and representative districts. At this apportionment of the general assembly, Warren, McDonough and Henderson counties composed a senatorial district, and William McMillan, of

\* See page 62 for further information.

Henderson county, was elected senator. In the same year Henderson and Warren counties composed a representative district, and William D. Henderson was elected representative. In the general assembly of 1846-8, William McMillam still held the office of senator, and John Curts, of Henderson county, was elected representative. The constitutional convention of 1848 made the counties of Hancock and Henderson a senatorial district, and Azro Patterson, of Henderson county, was elected senator. At the same time the counties of Warren, Mercer and Henderson became a representative district and entitled to two representatives, and Abner C. Harding, of Warren, and Gilbert Turnbull, of Henderson, were elected representatives. In 1850 Jacob C. Davis, of Hancock county, was elected senator, and Thomas Willits, of Mercer county, and Azro Patterson, of Henderson county, were elected representatives. In 1852 J. C. Davis still held the office of senator, and Samuel Darnell, of Henderson county, and Eleazer A. Paine, of Warren county, were elected representatives. In 1854 J. C. Davis still held the office of senator, and William C. Rice was elected representative. In 1856 Gen. Hiram Rose, of Henderson county, was elected senator, and A. V. T. Gilbert, of Warren county, represented the district composed of Warren and Henderson counties. In 1858 John P. Richmond, of Schuyler county, was elected senator of the district to which Henderson county belonged, and William C. Rice, of Henderson county, was elected representative. In 1860 John P. Richmond still held the office of senator, and William C. Maley, of Warren county, was elected representative. In 1862 Henry K. Pfeffer, of Warren county, and Thomas B. Cabeen, of Mercer county, were elected representatives from the Henderson representative district. In 1864 James Strain, of Warren county, was elected senator, and Jonathan Simpson, of Henderson county, was elected representative. In 1866 James Strain still held his seat in the senate, and Francis M. Bruner, of Warren county, was elected representative. In 1868 Isaac McManus, of Mercer county, was elected senator from the Henderson senatorial district, and David M. Findley, of Henderson county, was elected representative. In 1870 Harvey S. Senter, of Mercer county, was elected senator from the same district, and William A. M. Crunch was elected representative. In 1870, by the adoption of the new constitution framed by the convention of that year, the state was divided into fifty-one senatorial districts, each electing one senator, and each senatorial district constituting a representative district, entitled to three representatives to the lower house of the general assembly.

The constitution also provided for the cumulative system of voting for members of the lower house. In the districting by the general



assembly, in pursuance of this constitutional authority, the counties of Henderson and Hancock became one senatorial and representative district, entitled to one senator and three representatives. In 1872 Benjamin Warren, of Hancock county, was elected senator, and David Rankin and William Scott, of Henderson county, and Edward E. Lane, of Hancock county, were elected representatives. In 1874 Benjamin Warren still held the office of senator, and David Rankin and Paul D. Salter, of Henderson county, and Wellington Jenney, of Hancock county, were representatives in the lower house. In 1876 William Scott, of Henderson county, was chosen senator, and Charles F. Gill, George F. Walker, and John J. Reyburn, of Hancock county, were elected representatives. In 1878 William Scott held over as senator, and Thomas B. Brumbrack, John J. Reyburn and Brooks R. Hamilton were elected representatives. In 1880 John Fletcher, of Hancock county, was elected senator, and James Peterson, Robert A. McKinley and Henry M. Whiteman, of Henderson county, were chosen representatives.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

The first constitutional convention that ever assembled in Illinois, was convened at Kaskaskia, in July, 1818. It remained in session until August 30, 1818. This convention was composed of thirty-three delegates, and adopted a constitution which the convention did not see fit to submit to a vote of the people. This constitution was ratified by congress December 3, 1818. In 1847 a second constitutional convention convened in this state. It assembled on June 7, 1847, and adjourned August 31, 1847. It was composed of 162 delegates. The convention adopted and submitted a constitution to a vote of the people, who ratified it on March 6, 1848. Abner C. Harding, of Warren county, was the delegate chosen from the district composed of Warren and Henderson counties. The next constitutional convention that convened in this state assembled at Springfield, January 7, 1862, and continued in session until March 24, 1862. It adopted a constitution and submitted it to the people for ratification or rejection, on the Tuesday after the third Monday in June, 1862. The people, by a decided majority, rejected the constitution thus submitted. The rejection of this constitution did not result so much from any real defects in the provisions of the constitution thus submitted, as from other causes combined. It will be seen by the date of the assembling of this convention, that it was during the second year of the war of the rebellion. Passion and prejudice held at that time high carnival. A war of gigantic proportions confronted the northern states. The federal government was

menaced as never before had it been menaced. Many saw in the dire calamity of war only ruin to our whole country. Vast armies were being raised and concentrated at different points, preparatory to being sent forward to meet the advancing foe.

While the heart of the great mass of the people, without regard to party lines, beat true to the lawfully-authorized government and the old flag, there was a small number of malcontents to create alarm. They made up by their clamor in caucuses, conventions, and secret organizations, what they lacked in numbers. No doubt the representations of their actings and doings in the North to some extent encouraged the rebels of the South. It was at such a time that this convention assembled. Some of the early acts of this body, although perhaps springing from honest and patriotic motives, caused alarm in the public mind, already aroused and inclined to suspect danger in every unusual movement, and especially in a body so potent for evil as was this convention. The majority of the members of the convention assumed that upon its organization it was no longer bound by any legislative enactments, but was sovereign in the exercise of supreme power of the state; that it was virtually an assemblage of the people, with full and necessary power for a peaceable revolution of the government of the state. The law authorizing the calling of the convention prescribed the oath for members to take: to support the constitution of the state. This a majority of the convention refused to do, holding it to be inconsistent to take an oath to support a constitution that they were about to do away with. It was claimed that the convention had the right to declare itself permanent and exercise all the power of the people of the state. The debates upon these subjects created in the minds of a large portion of the people distrust and alarm. The convention lost the confidence and moral support of the people, and a powerful opposition was organized to whatever the convention might do. The final work of this body was much superior to what the people had been led by the debates to believe it would be; in fact, the constitution by them adopted, and submitted to the people for their ratification, was of high character as an organic law; but such was the prejudice that had been engendered against the convention, and such was the party spirit which had been aroused, that the people refused to look at the merits of the instrument, and the constitution thus submitted was defeated by a large majority. In this connection a fact should be recorded. The clause of the constitution, popularly known as the "black laws," which forbid the settlement of negroes in this state, and which was submitted as a separate article, was ratified by the people of the state by about 100,000, although the constitution was defeated; but



by a provision of the schedule in such contingency, the separate article became inoperative. Henderson county ratified the separate article, but rejected the constitution. Public sentiment changed radically since the vote upon that occasion. At the date of the election of delegates to this convention, Warren and Henderson counties composed one district, and Jonathan Simpson, of Henderson, was elected delegate. In 1869 another constitutional convention convened at Springfield. It assembled December 13, 1869, and closed its labors and adjourned May 18, 1870. It was composed of eighty-five members. It adopted a constitution and submitted it to the people for ratification July 2, 1870. It was ratified by a large majority. Mercer and Henderson counties constituted one district, and James S. Poage, of Mercer county, was elected delegate.

#### EFFORTS TO REMOVE THE COUNTY SEAT.

There have been in this county several efforts made to remove the county seat from Oquawka to some more central point in the county. The first of these efforts was made in 1859. At the session of the general assembly of that year an enabling act was passed, authorizing a vote to be taken upon the question of removing the seat of justice to the town of Warren, twelve miles south of Oquawka, and not far from what was claimed to be the geographical center of the county. The election was held in November of that year, and resulted in a majority adverse to removal.

In 1865 the general assembly again passed an act authorizing an election to be held upon the question of removing the seat of justice to the town of Sagetown (now Gladstone), five miles south of Oquawka. The election was held in November of that year and resulted in a majority against removal of 114.

In 1869 an election was again held to vote upon the question of removal to the town of Biggsville, a town on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, about ten miles south and east of Oquawka. The majority in this case was also against removal.

In 1872 the question was again submitted to the vote of the electors of the county of removal to Sagetown, but the people again decided, by a majority of 170, against removal. At the present time the legal steps have been taken to obtain again the sense of the people of the county upon the question of removal, but the point to be submitted for the decision of the legal voters of the county has not yet been fixed upon. The towns of Biggsville and Gladstone are each circulating petitions for signatures of the voters, which will be presented to the county court in September next, when the question will be

decided which of the two towns thus petitioning shall be the one upon which the vote shall be taken in November next.

Many who reside in the southern portion of the county feel it to be a hardship to have to travel so far to the seat of justice. It is true that the distance to be traveled would be more in accordance with equity if the county seat was more centrally located. Oquawka, the present county seat, is situated within nine miles of the northern boundary of the county ; the county being thirty miles in length from north to south. If a geographical center was sought, it would be found to be a little north of the town of Olena, near the residence of Isaiah J. Brook and the farm of John N. Bruin, in township 10 north, range 5 west. The main objection urged to the removal is the burden of taxation that would be laid upon the county in the erection of county buildings, court house, jail, etc.

#### THE POOR FARM.

In September, 1855, the authorities of the county purchased of George Cronover the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 26, T. 11 N., R. 5 W., for the purpose of providing a place for all county paupers. It is situated about two miles from the county seat, on Henderson creek. Upon this farm the county erected commodious buildings for the accommodation of the unfortunates from time to time demanding public charity. The farm has been well improved, and has proved upon the whole an economical plan for caring for the poor of the county.

In erecting the buildings, the basement of the larger building was constructed into cells for the safe-keeping of such as might, while there sojourning, need restraint or confinement. Such at least was the pretext at the time. In 1859 we find, however, an act passed by the general assembly authorizing the use of the said basement as a common jail of the county. As a jail the location has been found both insecure and expensive. Situated in a secluded spot, far away from help in case of need, this jail has proved anything but a safe deposit for persons charged with crime, while waiting trial or transportation to Joliet after conviction. Many have been the escapes from this so-called prison, many have been the expensive pursuits, followed by few captures. In this jail the noted William Lee was confined prior to his trial, conviction, and execution on the gallows in 1876 for the murder of Jessie McCarty, which event is described more in detail further on in these pages under the head of noted criminal trials.

One of these periodical jail deliveries occurred in the summer of 1880, and created for a time a sensation in the county. Confined at that time in the jail were some ten prisoners, charged with various



offenses, awaiting trial. Most noted among these prisoners were Martin J. Hall and Frank Peasley, under several indictments charging them with burglary and other crimes. Less than two months before the August term of the circuit court, when their cases would stand for trial, Peasley and Hall laid a plan for escape. They succeeded in obtaining from some of the paupers, who had access to the outside of the windows of the prison, two table knives. With these they constructed files, which they used successfully in sawing off the hinges of the heavy iron doors which secure the entrance to the cells, and on one Sunday, when the guard was small and unsuspecting of danger, they removed one of these iron doors, weighing 500 pounds, and by the joint action of all the prisoners they were enabled to use it as a battering ram, with such success that they broke down the door of the jail leading to the house, and through this escaped, and thus left the jail vacant.

Those on guard resisted to the extent of their power, but against such force of desperate men they were powerless. The prisoners scattered in different directions along the timber that skirts the banks of Henderson creek. Alarm was not long in reaching the county seat, when a vigorous pursuit was begun. Men on horseback, in wagons, on foot, armed with rifles, guns and revolvers, scattered in every direction, and continued the pursuit until night set in and darkness and storms precluded further search. Before night, however, a portion of the gang had been captured and returned to their old quarters. The ringleaders in the breaking eluded pursuit. The next day one or two more were captured in Warren county and sent back.

The sheriff, J. Oscar Anderson, with his deputy, Truman G. Allen, showed themselves on this occasion to be able and efficient officers. They were in no wise at fault on account of the escape, but set themselves to the task of capturing the fugitives with commendable zeal. Three of the prisoners were still at large, one of whom was not an important one, but Hall and Peasley were the ones that the people were anxious should be captured and brought to trial. They had been a source of trouble to the people, who felt that they could rest more securely as to their property if Hall and Peasley were securely behind the bars. A systematic search was kept up by our sheriff, who was leaving no stone unturned in his pursuit of the prisoners. For a long time no clew to their whereabouts was obtained, until at last Mr. Anderson, through his correspondents, learned that his men were in Nebraska. He at once started for that state, found and captured his men, and returned them safely to our county jail.

#### ERRATA.

Page 185, line 3, for “John” read “James.”

Page 203, line 5, for “1832” read “1830.”

Page 588, line 15, for “5” read “6.”

Page 670, line 19, for “L” read “S.”







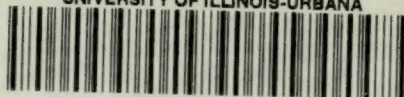








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